

I MINA 'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED
27-34 (COR)	Michael F.Q. San Nicolas	Relative to recognizing the We the People Project for advancing voting rights for the people of Guam and other territories by representing Luis Segovia and the other plaintiffs in Segovia v. Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners; and does further commend them for advocating for the voting rights of the people of Guam, the other territories, and the District of Columbia.	2/13/17 3:58 p.m.			2/13/2017	The Author		

I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

2017 FEB 13 PM 3:58
KC

Resolution No. 2734 (COR)

Introduced by:

Michael F.Q. San Nicolas 

Relative to recognizing the We the People Project for advancing voting rights for the people of Guam and other territories by representing Luis Segovia and the other plaintiffs in Segovia v. Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners; and does further commend them for advocating for the voting rights of the people of Guam, the other territories, and the District of Columbia.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:

WHEREAS, the We the People Project is representing the plaintiffs in Segovia v. Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners, a federal voting rights lawsuit which seeks to expand the right to vote in U.S. territories by arguing that the right to vote as an American should not depend on where you live; and

WHEREAS, the We the People Project fights for the day when the five million (5,000,000) Americans living in U.S. territories and the District of Columbia are treated as full and equal members of We the People; in short, "Equal Rights, Wherever You Live;" and

WHEREAS, contrary to the Supreme Court's decisions in the Insular Cases, which established a doctrine of "separate and unequal" status for Americans in overseas territories, Congress should not have the power to turn constitutional rights on and off in U.S. territories; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the We the People Project is to start a new conversation that will elevate these issues to the national level and open the door to new possibilities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the We the People Project represents six (6) U.S. citizens
2 living in Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands who are challenging
3 federal and state laws that deny them the right to vote for President and voting
4 representation in Congress while protecting full enjoyment of the right to vote for
5 citizens living in other U.S. territories as well as in foreign countries. Guam-based
6 Veterans organization, Iraq Afghanistan and Persian Gulf Veterans of the Pacific,
7 and the League of Women Voters of the Virgin Islands are also plaintiffs in the
8 case; and

9 **WHEREAS**, lead plaintiff Luis Segovia, a U.S. citizen who lives in Guam
10 with his family, served an eighteen (18) month tour in Iraq with the U.S. Army, a
11 12 month tour in Afghanistan with the Illinois National Guard, and a 10 month tour
12 in Afghanistan as part of the Guam National Guard. In Iraq, he helped provide
13 security for the 2005 Iraqi elections. He was deployed on his second tour to
14 Afghanistan just months after the 2012 presidential elections, unable to vote for
15 President; and

16 **WHEREAS**, under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee
17 Voting Act (UOCAVA) and Illinois' Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment
18 ("MOVE") law, a former resident of Illinois who is now a resident of the Northern
19 Mariana Islands, American Samoa, or a foreign country can continue voting for
20 President and voting representation in Congress in Illinois by absentee ballot. But
21 plaintiffs – each a former resident of Illinois – have lost full enjoyment of their
22 right to vote by virtue of living in Puerto Rico, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, this lawsuit is part of a broader effort to advocate for full
25 voting rights for every American, whether one lives in a State, Territory, or the
26 District of Columbia; now therefore be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Kuåttro Na*
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
3 people of Guam, recognize the We the People Project for advancing voting rights
4 for the people of Guam and other territories by representing Luis Segovia and the
5 other plaintiffs in Segovia v. Chicago Board of Elections Commissioners; and does
6 further commend them for advocating for the voting rights of the people of Guam,
7 the other territories, and the District of Columbia; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
9 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that
10 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Neil Weare, Esq., President and
11 founder of the We the People Project; the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo,
12 Guam's Delegate to the U.S. Congress; the Honorable Amata C. Radewagen,
13 American Samoa's Delegate to the U.S. Congress; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili
14 C. Sablan, the Northern Mariana Islands' Delegate to the U.S. Congress; the
15 Honorable Jenniffer Gonzalez, Puerto Rico's Delegate to the U.S. Congress; the
16 Honorable Stacey Plaskett, the U.S. Virgin Islands' Delegate to the U.S. Congress;
17 the Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Columbia's Delegate to the U.S.
18 Congress; and the Honorable Eddie Baza Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE ___ DAY OF _____, 2017.

BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker

MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

REGINE B. LEE
Legislative Secretary