

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO 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
305-35 (COR)	James C. Moylan	Relative to amending <i>I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan Oden Areklamento</i> (the Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature Standing Rules) to <i>add</i> Section 18.15 to Rule XVIII relative to requiring a Travel Justification Report from any Member, Attaches, or Employees of the <i>I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan</i> who travel on government expense.	2/19/20 10:01 a.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2020 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. **305**-35 (COR)

Introduced by:

James C. Moylan 

Relative to amending *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan Oden Areklamento* (the Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature Standing Rules) to *add* Section 18.15 to Rule XVIII relative to requiring a Travel Justification Report from any Member, Attaches, or Employees of the *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan* who travel on government expense.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the importance of travel for members, attaches, or employees when it comes to developing skills, participating in vital meetings or in the representation of the island when needed, however also believes that when it comes to taxpayer dollars that frugality and transparency be practiced as a priority; and

WHEREAS, According to the Travel Authorization Report Summary, provided for in the official website of *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan*, a total of \$66,781.81 was expended between February and October of 2019 by Senators and staff, inclusive of trips to attend Summits in Nashville, Tennessee and Saipan, meetings with federal agencies, inclusive of with Guam's Congressional Delegate, and also to testify in front of the United Nations in New York; and

WHEREAS, While it is understood that the Standing Rules of the 35th Guam Legislature was adopted unanimously on January 7, 2019, it is common for circumstances to be shifted and a need for policies to be strengthened or improved, hence the recommendation to amend the Standing Rules to promote further transparency should be welcomed by all members; and

WHEREAS, adopting a policy that requires any individual who represents the legislative branch of government and who travels on government expense, be required to submit a justification report would slowly rebuild the trust and confidence with the community that the branch is spending tax payer dollars in a practical manner; and

WHEREAS, certain trips can be replaced with online courses, video conferencing or other means, that a justification report would provide an assurance that such technological means were considered, which also provides an assurance to the island residents in how their tax dollars are being expended; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that any travel on government expense provide some benefit to Guam, be it tangible or intangible, and that all assurances be provided to the community that the trip is for reasonable purposes, and not a genesis for personal interest or gain, thus the additional importance of a justification report; and

WHEREAS, all expenditures incurred on any government funded trip should be detailed, transparent and shared in a platform for anyone in the community to access with ease, and not be filed away only to be released if a “freedom of information act” is requested by a member of the community, as the legislative branch of government should never create a semblance of “wanting to hide anything”; and

WHEREAS, another the intent of this policy is to assure that the effective date is retroactive to January 7, 2019, when the 35th Guam Legislature first came into fruition, as the message should be clear that when it comes to government travel, this branch has been and continues to practice transparency; and

WHEREAS, as noted earlier, government travel is needed at times, however when we have a stagnant economy, a rising crime and drug epidemic and problems at our schools and hospital, how government dollars are prioritized and spent needs to be an issue of virtue and on the forefront; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam *add* Section 18.15 to Rule XVIII of the *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan Otden Areklamento*, to read as follows:

“Section 18.15. Travel Justification Report

Any Member, Attaches, or Employee of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* who travels at the government’s expense shall prepare and publish on the Legislature’s website, a “Travel Justification Report”. The justification report shall include: 1). the reason(s) why the person was required to travel at the government’s expense, 2). the benefit that this travel shall provide for the island, 3). if this trip could have been avoided by the usage of other technological means, 4). a detailed report of all the expenses incurred during this trip, and 5). A detailed report outlining all official activities the traveler engaged in during the trip. This policy shall also apply to any persons contracted to render services to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* who travels at the government’s expense. All reports shall be submitted to the Committee on Rules within five (5) days following the return of the traveler. Failure to submit this report shall result in a loss of salary for the days the individual travelled. The Committee on Rules shall post this report in the official website of the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* within five (5) days of its receipt. This policy’s effective date shall be retroactive to January 7, 2019, and any reports for travel prior to the enactment date of this policy shall be submitted within five (5) of the enactment date to the Committee on Rules. Failure to do so shall result in a loss of salary for the days of the official travel.”, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to all Members of *I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan*; and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 19TH
DAY OF FEBRUARY.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary