

**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
72-35 (COR)	Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD Jose "Pedo" Terlaje	Relative to expressing <i>I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan's</i> strong opposition based on cultural, familial, and religious traditions to 36 CFR § 12.10, which prohibits floral and commemorative tributes on graves in national cemeteries and to request the National Park Service and U.S. Department of Interior to exempt Guåhan (Guam) from 36 CFR § 12.10 and any related rules, regulations, and policies within its authority.	3/14/19 9:51 a.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 72 -35 (COR)

Introduced by:

Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD 
Jose "PEDO" Terlaje 

Relative to expressing *I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan's* strong opposition based on cultural, familial, and religious traditions to 36 CFR § 12.10, which prohibits floral and commemorative tributes on graves in national cemeteries and to request the National Park Service and U.S. Department of Interior to exempt Guåhan (Guam) from 36 CFR § 12.10 and any related rules, regulations, and policies within its authority.

2019 MAR 14 AM 9:51 

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the prohibition in 36 CFR § 12.10 is applicable to two (2) national
4 cemeteries in Guåhan, which include the active Guam Veterans Cemetery and the
5 inactive Agana U.S. Naval Cemetery, where people of Guåhan regularly and often visit
6 their deceased loved ones; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the adorning of loved ones' gravesites with flowers and personally
8 significant mementos in national cemeteries is a deeply rooted cultural, familial, and
9 religious practice in Guåhan that honors a beloved one's memory, ancestral identity,
10 and familial lineage; and

11 **WHEREAS**, these rituals encompass an individual, family, and clan's
12 expression of love, sympathy, respect, and continued connectedness to the land and the

1 family and clan for a deceased loved one and provide comfort for family, friends, and
2 communities involved in the grieving experience; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the prohibition in 36 CFR § 12.10 does not consider the unique
4 rituals for death and grieving often practiced by Indigenous communities such as
5 Guåhan, which can be traced back thousands of years; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in the early 1600s, the Franciscan missionary Fray Juan Pobre de
7 Zamora, documented a descriptive written account of many burial rituals and
8 ceremonies, which include wrapping the body of the deceased in a mat that serves as a
9 shroud and two female relatives, who are among the oldest women in the village, lay
10 pieces of tree bark or of painted paper on top of the body; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in the latter part of the 1600s, the Jesuit missionary Father Diego
12 Luis de San Vitores observed that Indigenous demonstrations of grief at burials were
13 individual expressions marked by crying, fasting, and clamoring of shells and that
14 ancient death rituals also included *tinaitai* (chanting) when friends of the deceased
15 joined in a medley of songs and prayers, tearfully exclaiming that, henceforth, life
16 would not be worth living and would customarily continue from six (6) to eight (8)
17 days; and

18 **WHEREAS**, San Vitores also observed that the mother of the deceased would
19 cut off a lock of her son's hair as a memento of her grief and counts the days after his
20 death by tying a knot each night in a cord she wears around her neck; and

21 **WHEREAS**, it has been well documented in such descriptive detail that the
22 Indigenous people had many specific rites and ceremonies for funerals and burials; and

23 **WHEREAS**, these rituals are special parts of the collective grieving experience
24 that is shared in Indigenous and intimate communities such as Guåhan in which families
25 and clans readily trace and recount their ancestry and members thereof for generations,
26 therefore be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na*
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
3 of Guåhan, strongly oppose 36 CFR § 12.10 and request the National Park Service and
4 U.S. Department of Interior to exempt Guåhan from 36 CFR § 12.10 and any related
5 regulations and policies within its authority, and be it further;

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
7 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
8 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam
9 Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, to the Honorable Robert Wilkie,
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to the Honorable Dan Smith, Acting Director of the
11 National Park Service, to the Honorable David Bernhardt, Acting Secretary of Interior,
12 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 DAY
OF MARCH 2019.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary