

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
77-35 (COR)	Mary Camacho Torres Tina Rose Muña Barnes Therese M. Terlaje Telena Cruz Nelson Régine Biscoe Lee Amanda L. Shelton Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD	Relative to expressing the support of <i>I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan</i> for the passage of H.R. 208, the "Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act," introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to qualified individuals who reside on Guam; and to further expressing <i>Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'</i> to Representative San Nicolas for his advocacy of Guam's most vulnerable.	3/15/19 5:14 p.m.		4/25/19	3/19/19	To Author.	4/16/19 11:00 a.m.	4/18/19 2:43 p.m.	



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I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Thirty-Fifth Guam Legislature

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'håga
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 77-35 (COR)**, "Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 208, the "Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act," introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to qualified individuals who reside on Guam; and to further expressing *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to Representative San Nicolas for his advocacy of Guam's most vulnerable," which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on April 25, 2019.

Sincerely,

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)



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

Resolution No. 77-35 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Mary Camacho Torres
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Therese M. Terlaje
Telena Cruz Nelson
Régine Biscoe Lee
Amanda L. Shelton
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD
William M. Castro
James C. Moylan
Louise B. Muña
Sabina Flores Perez
Clynton E. Ridgell
Joe S. San Agustin
Telo T. Taitague
Jose “Pedro” Terlaje

Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 208, the “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,” introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to qualified individuals who reside on Guam; and to further expressing *Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to Representative San Nicolas for his advocacy of Guam’s most vulnerable.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program was established
4 in 1972 through U.S. Public Law 92-603. Authorized by Title XVI of the Social
5 Security Act, the SSI program is a federal income supplement program that provides
6 cash assistance and health care coverage to state residents of limited income and
7 resources who are blind, disabled, or sixty-five (65) years of age or older; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the SSI program was designed to replace prior federal-state systems
9 of public assistance, such as the Old-Age Assistance (OAA) and Aid to the Blind (AB),
10 which was established in 1935 through the original Social Security Act; as well as the
11 Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), which was established by the
12 Social Security Amendments of 1950; and

13 **WHEREAS**, these programs were subject to federal matching funds from states,
14 resulting in varying payment levels and eligibility requirements, as well as burdensome
15 provisions such as liens against property and mandatory relative support. Despite the
16 U.S. Congress recognizing these inadequacies, which led to the creation of the SSI,
17 these adult assistance programs remain in effect for Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin
18 Islands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, through its establishment, the SSI program represented “a major
20 departure from the traditional concept of public assistance . . . to the aged, the blind,
21 and the disabled.” In its report to the U.S. Senate in 1972, the Committee on Finance
22 expressed that the new program, to be administered by the Social Security
23 Administration (SSA), would “provide a positive assurance that the Nation’s aged,

1 blind, and disabled people . . . no longer have to subsist on below poverty-level
2 incomes” (U.S. Senate, 1972, p. 384); and

3 **WHEREAS**, unlike the prior federal-state programs, the SSI program provided
4 a uniform federal income floor, with minimal barriers to eligibility. The SSI benefit
5 amounts to a monthly maximum of Seven Hundred Seventy-one Dollars (\$771) for an
6 individual, and One Thousand One Hundred Fifty-seven Dollars (\$1,157) for couples;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, although the SSI program is administered by the Social Security
9 Administration, the program differs from Social Security. Social Security, which is
10 officially known as the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program,
11 is financed through payroll taxes on employees and their employers, while SSI benefits
12 are financed from the general funds of the United States Treasury. Further, SSI and
13 OASDI have different eligibility requirements and methods of determining payment;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 1976, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the
16 Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (Public Law 94-241) integrated the CNMI into the
17 SSI program, making it the only U.S. jurisdiction outside the fifty (50) states and the
18 District of Columbia with SSI coverage; and

19 **WHEREAS**, despite the presence of qualified U.S. citizens residing in the
20 unincorporated territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, they
21 remain without SSI coverage, resulting in the continuation of federal-territorial
22 matching based on the old federal-state program models; and

23 **WHEREAS**, based on the Northern Mariana Islands’ rates of qualification for
24 SSI and payments to beneficiaries, if the residents of Guam had been eligible for SSI

1 from 2013 to 2017, up to six thousand three hundred (6,300) beneficiaries on average
2 would have received SSI payments, resulting in payments of up to Three Million Eight
3 Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$3,860,000) per month on average; and

4 **WHEREAS**, recognizing the need to address this inequity for otherwise
5 qualified individuals who reside in Guam, Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
6 introduced H.R. 208, the “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,” in the
7 U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2019; and

8 **WHEREAS**, upon introduction, the measure was referred to the House
9 Committee on Ways and Means and subsequently referred to the Subcommittee on
10 Social Security on January 31, 2019; and

11 **WHEREAS**, while similar measures to extend coverage (H.R. 91 and H.R. 364
12 of the 113th Congress) have been introduced and urged by previous Delegates to the
13 U.S. House of Representatives, such as former Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo
14 of Guam, former Congresswoman Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and
15 the late former Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa, the U.S. Congress
16 has yet to extend SSI coverage to residents of U.S. territories; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the continued efforts of Guam’s current Delegate are essential as
18 extending SSI coverage to the people of Guam would aid potentially thousands of
19 residents who are blind, disabled, or sixty-five (65) years of age or older with low
20 incomes and limited resources; now therefore, be it

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
22 on behalf of the people of Guam, express its support for the passage of H.R. 208, the
23 “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,” introduced by the Honorable
24 Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on January 3,

1 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to
2 qualified individuals who reside on Guam; and does further express *Un Dangkolo Na*
3 *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to Representative San Nicolas for his advocacy of Guam's most
4 vulnerable; and be it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
6 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
7 Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Michael
8 R. Pence, Vice President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Nancy P.
9 Pelosi, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Richard
10 E. Neal, Chairman of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee; to the Honorable
11 John B. Larson, Chairman of the U.S. House Subcommittee on Social Security; to the
12 Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, Guam Delegate to the U.S. House of
13 Representatives; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
14 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 25TH DAY OF APRIL 2019.



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary