

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
96-35 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Sabina Flores Perez	Relative to recognizing the month of April as Distracted Awareness Month to advocate individuals to improve and prevent distracted driving.	4/10/19 3:58 p.m.	4/22/19 11:30 a.m.						

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

Resolution No. 96-35(COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez *SFO*

Relative to recognizing the month of April as Distracted Awareness Month to advocate individuals to improve and prevent distracted driving

2019 APR 10 PM 3:58
[Signature]

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

3 **WHEREAS,** The Insurance Association of Guam's purpose is to associate with
4 Guam insurance companies, to obtain and collate statistical data for the establishment
5 of rates, to recommend and establish rules for the conduct of insurance, to promote
6 standards of ethical conduct, to function as a rating bureau and to protect & advance
7 the interests of the insurance industry; and

8 **WHEREAS,** as mobile technology increases, more and more people rightly see
9 distracted driving – talking, texting, sending emails, posting to social media feeds – as

1 a growing threat to community safety and we in the insurance industry can see the
2 increase in crashes from the use of mobile technology. Truly, we have all seen drivers
3 that use their phone while driving, been that driver that has been distracted by our
4 mobile device or have been in a car where the driver used his/her phone. This issue
5 impacts all of us; and

6 **WHEREAS,** Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes
7 off the road and their hands off the wheel. When we first decided to launch an
8 education campaign on the dangers associated with mobile technology in the car, the
9 NHSTA statistics on distracted driving were sobering. At any given moment roughly
10 5% of drivers are attempting to use their phones. That is 5% of drivers on the road
11 with you and me that are not keeping their heads up and eyes on the road. Cell phone
12 distraction rates are alarmingly high, 1 out of every 4 car crashes in the United States
13 is caused by texting and driving; and

14 **WHEREAS,** We all need to be aware of the dangers of being distracted while
15 operating a motor vehicle, particularly with regard to mobile device use, as texting
16 while driving causes a 400% increase in the time spent with eyes off of the road. 21%
17 of teen drivers involved in fatal crashed in the US were distracted by their cell
18 phones. This really is a matter of life and death. We have to educate our youth on
19 these dangers in a way that causes a change in behavior. This issue is one of choice

1 and responsibility. The heads up campaign is trying to force the reality check we all
2 need to implement change in our personal cell phone use habits; and

3 **WHEREAS,** Distracted driving occurs when drivers engage in activities that
4 divert their attention from other road users (such as texting, talking on a cell phone,
5 adjusting the radio, and interacting with passengers; and

6 **WHEREAS,** A month dedicated to the Heads Up Campaign will help our
7 island create a supportive culture among our families and peers to encourage all
8 drivers to establish full-attention driving habits; and

9 **WHEREAS,** Distracted driving can result in injuries and deaths to motorists,
10 pedestrians, and bicyclists. It is estimated that 1.6 million crashes per year can be
11 attributed to cell phone talking and texting while driving Distracted driving is a
12 serious, life-threatening practice that is preventable; and

13 **WHEREAS,** In order to reduce the number of crashes as well as improve
14 driver safety, motorist should dedicated themselves to adopting and maintaining safe
15 behavior while behind the wheel.

16 **WHEREAS** Drivers ages 19-24 were 1.6 times as likely as all drivers to report
17 having read a text message or email while driving (66.1% vs. 40.2%) and were nearly
18 twice as likely as all drivers to report having typed or sent a text message or email
19 while driving (59.3% vs. 31.4%); and

20

1 **WHEREAS,** Many distractions exist while driving, but cell phones are a top
2 distraction because so many drivers use them for long periods of time each day.
3 Almost everyone has seen a driver distracted by a cell phone, but when you are the
4 one distracted, you often don't realize that driver is you; and

5 **WHEREAS,** New technology in vehicles is causing us to become more
6 distracted behind the wheel than ever before. Fifty-three percent of drivers believe if
7 manufacturers put "infotainment" dashboards and hands-free technology in vehicles,
8 they must be safe. And, with some state laws focusing on handheld bans, many drivers
9 honestly believe they are making the safe choice by using a hands-free device. But in
10 fact, these technologies distract our brains even long after you've used them; and

11 **WHEREAS,** Make no mistake this multitasking technology is about
12 convenience, not safety; and

13 **WHEREAS,** Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from
14 driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, talking to
15 people in your vehicle, fiddling with the stereo, entertainment or navigation system—
16 anything that takes your attention away from the task of safe driving.

1 **WHEREAS**, Texting is the most alarming distraction. Sending or reading a text
2 takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of
3 an entire football field with your eyes closed; and

4 **WHEREAS**, You cannot drive safely unless the task of driving has your full
5 attention and any non-driving activity you engage in is a potential distraction and
6 increases your risk of crashing; and

7 **WHEREAS**, In 2016 alone, 3,450 people were killed 391,000 were injured in
8 motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers; and

9 **WHEREAS**, During daylight hours, approximately 481,000 drivers are using
10 cell phones while driving, that creates enormous potential for deaths and injuries on
11 U.S. roads. Teens were the largest age group reported as distracted at the time of fatal
12 crashes; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na*
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* the people of
15 Guam, recognize the month of April to advocate individuals to improve, prevent as
16 Distracted Driving Awareness Month; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, That the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature
18 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to

- 1 Insurance Association of Guam; the Department of Public Works, Guam Office of
- 2 Highway Safety, the Guam Police Department, Highway Patrol Division and to the
- 3 Honorable Lourdes A. 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 2109.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES

AMANDA L. SHELTON

LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY