

*I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
**RESOLUTIONS**

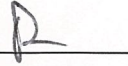
Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
99-35 (COR)	Clynton E. Ridgell	Relative to recognizing Vanessa L. Williams as the “Women in business Champion of the Year” 2019 SBA Small Business Awards recipient and commending her for her extensive record of achievement in promoting women in business and in government and in advocating policies that improve the environment for the creation and expansion of businesses owned or operated by women.	4/16/19 4:40 p.m.	4/22/19 2:00 p.m.						

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

Resolution No. 99-35 (COR)

Introduced by:

Clynton E. Ridgell



**Relative to recognizing Vanessa L. Williams as the “Women in business Champion of the Year” 2019 SBA Small Business Awards recipient and commending her for her extensive record of achievement in promoting women in business and in government and in advocating policies that improve the environment for the creation and expansion of businesses owned or operated by women.**

2019 APR 16 PM 4:40  


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

3        **WHEREAS**, Vanessa L. Williams is the principle attorney of the Law Office of  
4 Vanessa L. Williams, P.C. and with a focus on serving women who want to start, grow,  
5 and protect their businesses and financial investments and has given women the  
6 assurance they need to start and grow their own businesses. She has helped dozens of  
7 women in Guam form their own corporations and LLCs. Her firm also provides  
8 guidance on administrative and business law that represents different businesses, non-  
9 profit organizations, and various government entities in business transactions and  
10 litigation; and

11        **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams is a passionate advocate for small businesses, most  
12 especially women in business on Guam and is known for her volunteerism in legal and  
13 business expertise for women in business; and

1       **WHEREAS**, as sitting director and fiduciary of the Board of Directors for ANZ  
2   Guam, Inc., Ms. Williams seeks to ensure the bank meets the needs of borrowers in all  
3   segments of the community and their obligations under the Community Reinvestment  
4   Act by increasing business and financial opportunities for women; and

5       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams was instrumental in the founding of the Guam  
6   Women's Chamber of Commerce (GWCC), an organization that shares Ms. Williams's  
7   personal vision of providing support and advocacy for women in business. Ms.  
8   Williams served on the GWCC Board of Directors for five years and voluntarily served  
9   as President for two years. During her presidency, she spearheaded the launch of the  
10   first community-driven Women's Business Center which provides training, technical  
11   assistance, and resources to the membership of GWCC; and

12       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams has committed time to propose recommendations for  
13   legislation and regulatory action for the growth of small businesses and local economic  
14   activity; and

15       **WHEREAS**, she supports efforts to evaluate and improve the government  
16   procurement process by securing a grant through the University of Guam which was  
17   issued by the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. This grant led to  
18   the Guam Procurement Assessment Report that identified challenges leading to the lack  
19   of small business competition in government procurement. The Report included  
20   proposed legislative and regulative recommendations that would address such  
21   challenges; and

22       **WHEREAS**, in 2010, Ms. Williams and Development Economist Dr. Claret  
23   Ruane produced, "The Making of the Pacific Tiger: Lessons from the Celtic Tiger,"  
24   published in the Journal of Economics and Economics Research. This study focused on  
25   the concept of economic tigers in general and Guam becoming the first Pacific Tiger in  
26   particular. The Pacific Tiger strategy proposed six overall economic goals designed to

1 bring about a sustainable and participatory economic development process for Guam,  
2 ultimately becoming the foundation for the 2011 Guam Comprehensive Economic  
3 Development Strategy (CEDS) prepared by the Guam Economic Development  
4 Authority (GEDA), the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), and the University of  
5 Guam's Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives; and

6       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams co-authored another study, "Factors for Attracting  
7 Baby Boomers & Millennials to Downtown Living: Implications for Revitalizing  
8 Guam's Downtown Hagatna," which was published in the Journal of International  
9 Business Research. This study surveyed how different land zoning issues might affect  
10 commerce in Guam's capital district. Ms. Williams was soon appointed and confirmed  
11 to serve on the Hagåtña Restoration and Redevelopment Authority (HRRA) and served  
12 between 2006 and 2016. In her capacity as a board member, Ms. Williams worked to  
13 include HRRA-approved projects in the 2011 CEDS and bridged HRRA's efforts with  
14 the work produced by the Pacific Center for Economic Initiatives, the Guam  
15 Preservation Trust, and the Guam Small Business Development Center (SBDC) under  
16 a U.S. Economic Development Administration grant to implement "Downtown  
17 Strategies for Hagåtña." One of these strategies was highlighting the historical and  
18 cultural barrios within the Hagåtña corridors which promoted small businesses; and

19       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams provides public testimony at various legislative  
20 hearings, promoting small business and women in business. Other areas of her past  
21 testimonies include recommending the implementation of specific regulations within  
22 the Department of Revenue and Taxation and addressing inconsistencies in procedures  
23 that stifle the creation and growth of small business. She has given input on the  
24 administrative adjudication process for alcohol and beverage control licensing and  
25 foreign exchange licensing. She has testified in support of increasing "the Santos  
26 Amendment," to relieve small businesses of the business privilege tax burden. She has

1 testified in support of implementing a woman-owned business preference within the  
2 Guam Procurement law. She has promoted the revival of the Bureau of Women's  
3 Affairs to achieve its intended purpose of improving business opportunities for women.  
4 She has testified in support of amending § 2105, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated for all  
5 government boards and commissions to have true gender balance; and

6       **WHEREAS**, as a specialist in corporate and commercial law, Ms. Williams  
7 consistently volunteers her legal and business expertise to several non-profit  
8 organizations whose focus is the promotion of women in business. Her target clientele  
9 has always been those like her—women who are underrepresented in business and in  
10 their profession; and

11       **WHEREAS**, her volunteerism in the community, particularly with the Guam  
12 Women's Chamber of Commerce, has led to countless hours of raising funds and  
13 program development. In over four (4) years, Ms. Williams has helped raise over one  
14 hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for developing workshops, training, mentorship,  
15 leadership conferences, fora, scholarships, and over thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)  
16 has been directed to women and business students at the University of Guam, the Guam  
17 Community College, and the Pacific Islands University.

18       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Williams continues to volunteer assistance to discuss legal  
19 issues that women in business face. She offers input to various organizations such as  
20 the Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center, the Guam Contractor's  
21 Association, and the Guam Small Business Development Center. Ms. Williams relies  
22 on global management consulting publications and international studies and has used  
23 her findings to present, "The Case for Gender Parity," to the Rotary Club of Tumon  
24 Bay; and

25       **WHEREAS**, since Ms. Williams's tenure with the Guam Women's Chamber of  
26 Commerce, membership has grown tremendously, participation in the annual

1 conference has grown, and the GWCC is regularly invited by the Guam Legislature to  
2 provide input on issues affecting women-owned or operated business, allowing the  
3 GWCC the opportunity to advocate policies that improve the environment for the  
4 creation and expansion of businesses; and now, therefore be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *i Mina'trentai Singko na*  
6 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *i Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people  
7 of Guam, congratulate Ms. Vanessa L. Williams as the “Women in business Champion  
8 of the Year” 2019 SBA Small Business Awards recipient and commend her for her  
9 extensive record of achievement in promoting women in business and in government  
10 and in advocating policies that improve the environment for the creation and expansion  
11 of businesses owned or operated by women; and be it further;

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
13 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
14 the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Vanessa L. Williams; and to the Honorable  
15 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 \_\_\_\_ 2019.**

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES**  
Speaker

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**RÉGINE BISCOE LEE**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary