

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
335-35 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.	6/29/20 10:37 a.m.			6/29/20	To Author.	6/9/20 1:00 p.m.	11/13/20 6:08 p.m.	



Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

August 25, 2020

The Honorable Régine Biscoe Lee *RBA*
Chair, Committee on Rules
I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)

Dear Chair Biscoe Lee:

Transmitted herewith for consideration by the Body is the Author's Report on Resolution No. 335-35 (COR) – Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes - **Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.**

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',


TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

**COMMITTEE ON RULES
RECEIVED:**

August 25, 2020
2:23 P.M.

Stephanie Joenjo

Revisions Rec'd:
October 8, 2020 @ 8:00 A.M.





Office of the Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

AUTHOR'S REPORT

Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR
THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C.



Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910
Phone: (671) 477-2520/2521 / Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org / Website: www.guamlegislature.org

Senator Régine Biscoe Lee,
Chair

Senator Amanda L. Shelton,
Vice Chair

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes,
Member

Vice Speaker Telen Cruz Nelson,
Member

Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD,
Member

Senator Sabina Flores Perez,
Member



COMMITTEE ON RULES
I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
35TH GUAM LEGISLATURE

June 29, 2020

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Senator Joe S. San Agustin,
Member

Senator Jose "Pedro" Terlaje,
Member

Senator Therese M. Terlaje,
Member

Senator James C. Moylan,
Member

Senator Mary Camacho Torres,
Member and Chair, Subcommittee on Protocol

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature
Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Régine Biscoe Lee**
Chair, Committee on Rules

Re: **Referral of Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)**

Buenas yan Håfa adai.

As per my authority as Chair of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of Resolution No. 335-35 (COR).

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred to **Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, author of Resolution No. 335-35 (COR).**

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Régine Biscoe Lee
Chair, Committee on Rules



I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

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335-35 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.	6/29/20 10:37 a.m.			6/29/20	To Author.			



Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

FIRST NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING-- Thursday, June 9, 2020 at 1 pm

4 messages

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Wed, Jul 1, 2020 at 4:11 PM

July 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders****FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

Chairperson, Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING – Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1 pm

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup will convene a virtual public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2020 beginning at 1 PM via Zoom Video Conferencing. On the Agenda are the following:

- **Resolution No. 324-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Relative to supporting the Republic of China's (Taiwan) participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.
- **Bill No. 312-35 (LS)** - Mary Camacho Torres / Tina Rose Muña Barnes
AN ACT TO AMEND §4403(d) THROUGH (f), ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO NULL AND VOID PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS OR REGULATIONS, AND TO ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO UNJUSTIFIABLY REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4406 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE APPLICATION OF THE NINETY DAY RULE FOR POST AUDIT INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4408 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS.

For individuals wishing to provide live testimony via videoconferencing, please contact our office by email at speaker@guamlegislature.org or call 477-2520 no later than **July 7, 2020.**

Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at 163 W Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 or via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at 477-2520/1 or via email at speaker@guamlegislature.org. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910

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Gumai pribilehu yan konfedensia este siha na mensåhi. Solo espesiåtmamente para hågu ma entsensioña pat ma aturisa para unrisibi. Sen prubidu kumu ti un ma aturisa para manribisa, na'setbe, pat mandespåtcha. Yanggen lachi rinisibu-mu nu este na mensåhi, put fabot ago' guatu gi I numa'huyong gi as speaker@guamlegislature.org yan despues destrosa todú siha I kopian mensåhi. Si Yu'os ma'åse'.



FIRST NOTICE - July 9, 2020 at 1pm.pdf

299K



Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources and the Guam Buildup

July 1, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Chairperson, Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING – Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1 pm

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup will convene a virtual public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2020 beginning at 1 PM via Zoom Video Conferencing. On the Agenda is the following:

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Relative to supporting the Republic of China's (Taiwan) participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.
- **Bill No. 312-35 (LS)** - Mary Camacho Torres / Tina Rose Muña Barnes
AN ACT TO AMEND §4403(d) THROUGH (f), ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO NULL AND VOID PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS OR REGULATIONS, AND TO ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO UNJUSTIFIABLY REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4406 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE APPLICATION OF THE NINETY DAY RULE FOR POST AUDIT INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4408 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS.

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Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at 163 W Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 or via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org.

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Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1pm

3 messages

Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Tue, Jul 7, 2020 at 1:00 PM

July 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders****FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**, Chairperson, Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup**SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1pm**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup will convene a virtual public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2020 beginning at 1 PM via Zoom Video Conferencing. On the Agenda is the following:

- **Resolution No. 324-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Relative to supporting the Republic of China's (Taiwan) participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.
- **Bill No. 312-35 (LS)** - Mary Camacho Torres / Tina Rose Muña Barnes
AN ACT TO AMEND §4403(d) THROUGH (f), ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO NULL AND VOID PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS OR REGULATIONS, AND TO ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO UNJUSTIFIABLY REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4406 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE APPLICATION OF THE NINETY DAY RULE FOR POST AUDIT INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4408 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS.

For individuals wishing to provide live testimony via videoconferencing, please contact our office by email at speaker@guamlegislature.org or call 477-2520.

Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at 163 W Chalan Santo Papa,

Hagåtña, Guam 96910 or via email to speaker@guamlegislature.org.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at 477-2520/1 or via email at speaker@guamlegislature.org. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!



Sinseru yan Minagåhet,

Office of the Speaker • Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources & the Guam Buildup

35th Guam Legislature

I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guahan

Guam Congress Building | 163 Chalan Santo Papa | Hagatna, GU 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1

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Second Notice of Public Hearing - July 9, 2020.pdf

297K



Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources and the Guam Buildup

July 7, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

FROM: Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Chairperson, Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup

SUBJECT: **SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** – Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1pm

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised that the Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup will convene a virtual public hearing on Thursday, July 9, 2020 beginning at 1 PM via Zoom Video Conferencing. On the Agenda is the following:

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Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.
- **Bill No. 312-35 (LS)** - Mary Camacho Torres / Tina Rose Muña Barnes
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Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910

Phone: (671)477-2520/2521 /Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org / Website: www.guamlegislature.org



Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

AGENDA

Thursday, July 9, 2020 at 1 PM

Public Hearing

Via Zoom Conference Platform

- **Resolution No. 324-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes Relative to supporting the Republic of China's (Taiwan) participation in the WorldHealth Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to theCOVID-19 pandemic.
- **Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)** - Tina Rose Muña Barnes Relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.
- **Bill No. 312-35 (LS)** - Mary Camacho Torres / Tina Rose Muña Barnes AN ACT TO AMEND §4403(d) THROUGH (f), ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CIVILSERVICE COMMISSION TO NULL AND VOID PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICHARE IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS OR REGULATIONS, AND TOESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO UNJUSTIFIABLYREFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHERAMEND §4406 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODEANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE APPLICATION OF THE NINETYDAY RULE FOR POST AUDIT INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND§4408 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONORDERS.



Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910

Phone: (671)477-2520/2521 /Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org /Website: www.guamlegislature.org



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Public Hearing

Thursday, July 9, 2020, 1 PM

I Liheslaturan Guåhan, Virtual Public Hearing

Resolution No. 335-35(COR) – Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C.

Name	Agency/ Organization	Oral Testimony	Written Testimony	Support	Not in Support	Contact Information
Mark Wang	Public Policy Institute (PPI)	✓	✓	✓		
Aila Rodriguez	Public Policy Institute (PPI)	✓	✓	✓		
Senator Paul Strauss	United States Senate			✓		Paul.Strauss@dc.gov
Melvin Won Pat-Borja	Commission on Decolonization		✓	✓		decol@guam.gov

1 out of 1



Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910

Phone: (671) 477-2520/2521 / Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org / Website: www.guamlegislature.org

Hafa Adai,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on Resolution No. 335-35 (COR). My name is Mark Wang, I am a rising sophomore, and a member of the Public Policy Institute.

When I had visited Washington D.C. two years ago, I noticed a phrase on all the license plates, "taxation without representation." Having taken US history, it was clear that the events that led up to the Boston Tea Party and ultimately our nation's independence, centered around the same concept of taxation without representation.

Today the United States prides itself in the ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom. In fact, decisions made in D.C. have demonstrated that the United States has no problem invading foreign nations to uphold these values that we hold sacred. Yet, I find it ironic that residents in our nation's capital are still unable to practice these privileges afforded to all Americans as defined in the Constitution. I find it ironic that we promote the ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom as a fundamental right, yet, we do not afford this to all our citizens.

It is absurd for me to see that D.C. residents pay more in taxes per capita than any state, and more in federal taxes than 22 states, yet they still have no voting power on Capitol Hill, a national landmark right in their backyard. 700,000 American citizens and 30,000 proud veterans live in D.C., but as defined by the status quo, they do not have a vote in Congress. The United States of America, a country that prides itself for its democratic ideals overseas, should not deprive any of its residents of the right to vote. This is an issue that should not be debated based on partisan affiliation, and neither should it be influenced by party agenda, this is a matter of a government doing its due diligence in allowing its citizens to practice their basic human right as defined by the Constitution .

I echo the sentiments of Mayor Muriel Bowser of D.C., that is why I support this resolution for the following reasons.

Thank you

Aila Rodriguez
July 8th 2020
Res. No. 335-35 (COR) Testimony

Hafa Adai,

My name is Aila Rodriguez. I am a rising sophomore at Brown University and a Public Policy Institute intern in the 35th Guam Legislature. I am in support of Resolution No. 335-35 (COR), relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington DC.

One of the main reasons cited by the federal government as to why Guam and other territories do not receive the same rights and representation as those in the fifty states is that the residents do not pay federal taxes.

But as mentioned on the Resolution, the residents of DC pay more in total federal income taxes than residents of 22 other states. Therefore, given that rationale, I believe that it is only right for the residents of DC to have the same representation as any other state.

Furthermore, like the 3.6 million people in the territories who are without full representation in Congress and without voting rights, Washington DC's population of 700,000 – which is more than states like Vermont and Wyoming - are also without full representation in Congress.

In closing, as a Filipino for Guam, this could also support the Chamoru people's dedication to decolonization and justice for their land, ocean, and people. Washington DC's fight for full representation is similar to the struggles that Guam and the other territories have been going through for many years. I believe that Washington DC's success will pave the way for Guam and other territories to achieve the same results.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak on behalf of resolution 335-35 (COR).



Aila Rodriguez



Speaker's Office <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

testimony DC

1 message

Melvin Won Pat Borja <melvin.borja@guam.gov>
To: Speaker Tina Muña Barnes <speaker@guamlegislature.org>

Thu, Jul 9, 2020 at 1:33 PM

July 9, 2020

Hafa Adai Madam Speaker:

In regards to Resolution 335-35, relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C., I would like to submit the following testimony.

It is abundantly clear that in a world which values peace, stability, and cooperation, there is no longer a place for territorial relationships. Throughout history, the United States has fought multiple wars in pursuit of liberty, freedom, and equal rights for its citizens, yet in 2020 the structures that uphold political inequality remain. Guam has fought since the Spanish colonial era for our right to self determination and our people have never wavered in our desire for a higher level of self governance and the freedom to decide our political future on our own terms. Unlike many other places around the world, Guam's stance on decolonization and political self determination have remained consistent and our desire for recognition and dignity are not influenced by partisan politics.

Ironically even in the Nation's capitol, citizens are experiencing the disparities that are created by political inequality and the people of Washington D.C. have expressed their displeasure with their status quo. Like Guam, Washington D.C. has outgrown its current political status and incremental changes are no longer acceptable. It is clear that the only solution to the inequity that serves to undermine the very principles of democracy, is to address the shortcomings of territorial political status with genuine efforts toward the exercise of self determination. Many proponents of the Statehood effort for Washington D.C., consistently assert that the lack of representation in the American political system has led to the systematic disenfranchisement and marginalization of their 700,000 citizens. We too in Guam feel a sense of disenfranchisement, marginalization, and even abandonment as we deal with the disparities and challenges in an unincorporated territory existence. The Government of Guam faces the challenges of insufficient federal funding, navigating unfunded federal mandates, we experience unilateral control of our local government by the federal government, and yet we still consider ourselves to be American citizens and assume that our rights are protected under the Constitution, like any other citizen. We have participated in the American political family in good faith, positioning our lands, oceans, and even our people in war and strategic military positioning - all on the assumption that we are equal partners and that we will be treated with dignity and respect. But we have seen time and again, that our relationship is one that values consultation more than collaboration and mitigation more than mutual consent.

It is my hope that the elevation of the political inequality that Washington D.C. is experiencing, will in turn bring much needed attention to the same inequity that exists for the island of Guam. I look forward to the coming debate and I am optimistic that this will help raise awareness about the need for political self-determination in Guam.

Melvin WonPat-Borja
Executive Director
Commission on Decolonization

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Melvin B. Won Pat-Borja
Executive Director
Commission on Decolonization

Ufisinan i Maga'hågan Guåhan
Office of the Governor of Guam
Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex
Hagåtña, GU 96910
Office: (671)475-9545

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Office of the Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

AUTHOR REPORT DIGEST

I. **OVERVIEW**

Resolution No. 335-35 (COR) was introduced on June 29, 2020 by Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, on June 29, 2020. Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, author convened an Author's virtual public hearing on Resolution No. 335-35 (COR) on July 9, 2020 at 1:00 pm via Zoom Conference Platform.

Public Notice Requirements

Public Hearing notices were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 (5-Day Notice), and again on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 (48-Hour Notice).

Senators Present

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author

Senator Telo Taitague

Senator Mary C. Torres

Attendees

Daniel Leon Guerrero, Civil Service Commission Executive Director (Not Testifying) Mark Wang, Public Policy Institute Intern

Aila Kassandra Rodriguez, Public Policy Institute Intern

II. **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION**

The public hearing was called to order at 1:01 pm.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: *Buenas Yan Håfa Adai Todus Hamyo!* This hearing by the Committee on Public Accountability, Human Resources, and the Guam Buildup is now called to order the time is 1:01 pm.

For the record and in accordance with 5 GCA, Chapter 8, Subsection 8107, public hearing notices were sent on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 adhering to the five (5) days' notice, and a second public notice on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, for the forty-eight (48) hour prior notice.

In addition, this hearing was noticed on the legislature's website it was at www.guamlegislature.com, and written testimonies for these items on the agenda may be submitted by emailing speaker@guamlegislature.org or you may hand deliver to our office at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam. And ladies and gentlemen I want to thank all you guys for being here and on the agenda ladies and gentlemen we will have the first one – action item will be Resolution No. 324-35 (COR) as introduced by myself. It's relative to supporting the Republic of China – Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution No. 335-35 (COR) as introduced by myself, Tina Rose Muña Barnes it's relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.

We also have ladies and gentlemen Bill No. 312-35 (LS) as introduced by Senator Mary Camacho Torres and myself Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, which is AN ACT TO AMEND §4403(d) THROUGH (f), ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO AUTHORIZING THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO NULL AND VOID PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICH ARE IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING LAWS OR REGULATIONS, AND TO ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR PUBLIC OFFICIALS WHO UNJUSTIFIABLY REFUSE TO COOPERATE WITH SUCH INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4406 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REMOVING THE APPLICATION OF THE NINETY DAY RULE FOR POST AUDIT INVESTIGATIONS; AND TO FURTHER AMEND §4408 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 4, TITLE 4, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION ORDERS.

Joining me here this afternoon, I see that Senator Mary Torres is with me I know that my policy team is also here thank you very much and we will go ahead and share some rules of engagement. We ask those that are testifying to abide by the following: To broadcast from a quiet room with little to no interruptions; Two, to broadcast from a room with adequate lighting— specifically to ensure that the participant's face is visible and not backlit; Three, to ensure participant's face is visible at all times; Four, to be properly attired; Five, to use only respectful and professional language and conduct. Virtual backgrounds should not be utilized during public hearings. I ask everyone here to keep your audio on mute until you are recognized. Please remain in the meeting room for any questions by my colleagues and those of who – who do not follow these rules of engagement will be removed from this meeting.

With that being said – before I do that, I also want to thank the audio team from the legislature for providing us this outlet for us to facilitate these – this public hearing. And with that being said, we will now move on to the first item on the agenda, Resolution No. 324-35 (COR) Relative to supporting the Republic of China – Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I will share a brief opening statement this resolution 324-35 (COR) was introduced on April 24, 2020 in anticipation of the World Health Assembly that was supposed to be held on May 18th, 2020. Although we were not able to get this through the legislature expediently due to other legislative matters at hand it is still important that the Guam Legislature continues to advocate for greater participation and elevate the health needs and priorities of our region at the international meetings. And at this time, I would like to read a resolution – If I may just for the listening audience, thank you Senator Torres again for being a part of this public hearing.

I will read the resolution so that the listening audience can hear what it is all about and it is relative to supporting the Republic of China – Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization and to further commending them for their successful response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(Reads Resolution No. 324-35 (COR).



Ladies and gentlemen, and colleagues here today we did receive a letter from the Embassy of the Republic of China, and it says “Dear Speaker Barnes, thank you for offering us the opportunity to attend the public hearing.

While it is not convenient for us to participate online due to some technical issues, I am more than happy to provide some perspectives of Taiwan.

Participating in the WHO is a shared aspiration of Taiwanese people. Taiwan government has strived to achieve this important objective in the past few years but been turned down due to political considerations.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 has demonstrated that disease knows no borders. Only through international cooperation can we contain the pandemic and expedite the development of vaccines. Taiwan currently has been working hard to expand anti-pandemic cooperation with like-minded countries like the US, some European countries and donated surgical masks and medical supplies to nations and areas in the need to manifest the spirit that Taiwan can help, and Taiwan is helping.

Taiwan needs to participate in WHA because we believe that face to face interactions build mutual trust and forge partnerships- key facets in strengthening the global disease control network. Through participating in the WHA, Taiwan can learn from the global community and contribute by sharing its health care expertise.

I take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for standing up for the just cause of Taiwan and for the universal belief that the health is the fundamental rights of every human being. Sincerely yours, Wallace M.G. Chow Ambassador.”

I also have from the Guam Medical Society- is Edward Blounts online with us? If not its really important that I just read this real fast. It was “The Guam Medical Society stands with Speaker Tina Muña Barnes in supporting the participation of Taiwan into the WHO. Taiwan has been of tremendous support to the people and the health care community of Guam for years and has proven to be a good neighbor.

First, I would like to mention that Guam was short on personal protective equipment at the height of our COVID caseload. Taiwan heard our call and donated high quality surgical masks. These masks helped us provide care for our affected patients without compromising our safety. These surgical masks were the most needed piece of PPE in all of Guam. Taiwan has also donated these masks locally to our bothers in the Federated States of Micronesia and to the rest of the world as well. They have helped us when we needed it.

Another way Taiwan helps Guam is through medical referrals. Guam does a very good job meeting the health care needs of its population but there are some instances where we don't have certain sub specialists or certain equipment available and we have to send out patients off island to receive the care they need to get well. Taiwan provides a very close option with top of the line medical care.

Lastly Taiwan sends its physicians here to teach our physicians. They have reached out to our medical society and want to let us know what they have to offer and how we can use them. Also,



some Taiwan born, and trained physicians work on Guam and provide great care to their patients. Taiwan has helped both Guam and the Guam Medical Society over the years and I am happy to stand with the Speaker in support of Taiwan's participation in the WHO. Edward Blounts, DO President of the Guam Medical Society 2019 and 2020."

I don't have any other testimony, but I would like to open it to Senator Mary Torres if you would like to share anything regarding resolution 324-35 Senator Torres?

Senator Mary C. Torres: Thank you madam Chair, I don't have any comments I think what you covered in the testimony of support more than sufficiently covers all the angles of support, so I have nothing further to add thank you.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: (Inaudible) thank the good work of our counterparts in Taiwan especially the Taiwan community of Guam who continue to step up to the plate and help our community out in any way they can. And we are especially grateful for the reopening of our Taiwan economic and cultural office I know that we're going to be calling it TECO they will be opening their office on our island- and I know that our island would be able to create a greater level of economic development and collaboration. And I want to share that this, this written testimony has been submitted by the Ambassador of the Republic of China Taiwan and the Republic of Taiwan Dr. Blount's president of the Guam Medical Center I will submit that to the committee for- it's a pending and, and if there's no other one or a report to Resolution number 324-35 (COR) I will call that this resolution be duly heard and we will move on to the next resolution which is resolution number 312- I'm sorry 335. I apologize, 335-35 (COR) and its relative to supporting the statehood for the people of Washington D.C.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: I will be real brief on my opening statement. We were very happy to hear the recent vote in the House of Representatives regarding statehood for D.C.- right now, we do not have anyone, but I am- I do see that there are folks that want to present testimony that is listed. I think I will start out with Mr. Mark Wang, but before I allow Mr. Wang to speak, I do want to acknowledge the presence of Senator Telo Taitague. Minority Leader, *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for joining us and also here to speak on another bill coming up is the Executive Director Mr. Danny Leon Guerrero from the Civil Service Commission- so just thank you guys for being here. So, with that being said on Resolution 335-35 Mr. Mark Wang I will acknowledge you at this time.

Mark Wang: Alright thank you Speaker. *Håfa Adai*, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on resolution number 335-35 (COR). My name is Mark Wang, and I am a rising sophomore, and a member of the Public Policy Institute. When I had visited Washington DC two years ago, I noticed a phrase on all of the license plates, and that is "taxation without representation." Now having taken US history, it was clear that the events that led up to the Boston Tea Party and ultimately our nation's independence, centered around the same concept of taxation without representation.



Today the United States prides itself and the ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom. In fact, decisions made in D.C. have demonstrated that the United States has no problem invading foreign nations to uphold these values that we hold sacred. Yet, I find it ironic that residents in our nation's capital are still unable practice these privileges appointed to all Americans as defined in the Constitution. I find it ironic that we promote the ideals of liberty, justice, and freedom as a fundamental right, yet, we do not afford this to all our citizens.

And so, it is absurd for me to see that D.C. residents pay more in taxes per capita than any state, and more in federal taxes than twenty-two states, yet they still have no voting power on Capitol Hill, a national landmark right in their backyard. 700,000 American citizens and 30,000 proud veterans live in D.C., but as defined by the status quo, they do not have a vote in Congress. The United States of America, a country that prides itself for its democratic ideals overseas, should not deprive any of its residents of the right to vote. This is an issue that should not be delayed and based on partisan affiliation, and neither should be influenced by party agenda, this is a matter of a government doing its due diligence and allowing its citizens to practice the basic human right as defined by the Constitution.

I echo the sentiments of Mayor Muriel Bowser of DC., that is all I support this resolution of following reasons. Thank you very much.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: Thank you very much Mr. Mark Wang. And before I go to the next individual to testify just want to say Mr. Wang thank you very much for that presentation and I hope that you can submit a copy to us- to the committee excellent, excellent presentation. Next on hand ladies and gentlemen I do have Aila Rodriguez. Is she on? Please proceed, good afternoon.

Aila Rodriguez: Good afternoon Speaker and thank you. *Håfa Ada,i* my name is Aila Rodriguez. I am a rising sophomore at Brown University and a Public Policy Institute intern in the 35th Guam Legislature. I am in support of Resolution number 335-35 (COR), relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C.

One of the main reasons cited by the federal government as to why Guam and other territories do not receive the same rights and representation as those in the 50 States is that the residents do not pay federal taxes.

But as mentioned on the Resolution, the residence of D.C. pay more in total federal income taxes than residents of the 22 other States. Therefore, given the rational, I believe that the only right for the residents of D.C. to have the same representation as any other state.

Furthermore, like the 3.6 million people in the territories who are without full representation in Congress and without voting rights, Washington D.C.'s population of 700,000, which is more than States like Vermont and Wyoming- are also without full representation in Congress.

In closing, as a Filipino from Guam, this could also support the Chamoru people's dedication to decolonization and justice for their land, ocean, and people. Washington D.C.'s fight for full



representation is similar to the struggles that Guam and the other territories have been going through for many years. I believe that Washington D.C.'s success will pave the way for Guam and other territories to achieve the same results.

Thank you for allowing me the time to speak on behalf of Resolution 335-35 (COR).

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: Thank you so very much Alia. If I may, thank you for the awesome presentation and maybe you can submit your written testimony or your oral testimony if you can submit a copy to our office to our committee, we would truly appreciate it. Thank you very much. That being said, I do have a comment that was submitted to us earlier a message from the shadow Senator of Washington DC Senator Paul Strauss and I'll go ahead and read it into the record. The fact that every part of the United States with a population that's majority non-white lacks voting representation in the Congress is not a coincidence. It is a long-standing pattern of injustice that requires all marginalized Americans to work together regardless of ethnicity. I thank Speaker Barnes for her showing of solidarity with her fellow unrepresented Americans at this important time in DC's history. Whatever path the people of Guam ultimately take we in the District of Columbia will remember those who stood with us at this important time. Paul Strauss shadow Senator of Washington DC.

Ladies and gentlemen that's all I have for testimony and messages I'd like to at least extend an opportunity for any comment from first the Minority Leader Senator Telo on this resolution. Do you have any comments?

Senator Telo Taitague: No comments.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes: Thank you Minority. Senator Torres would you like to provide any comments for resolution 335?

Senator Torres:

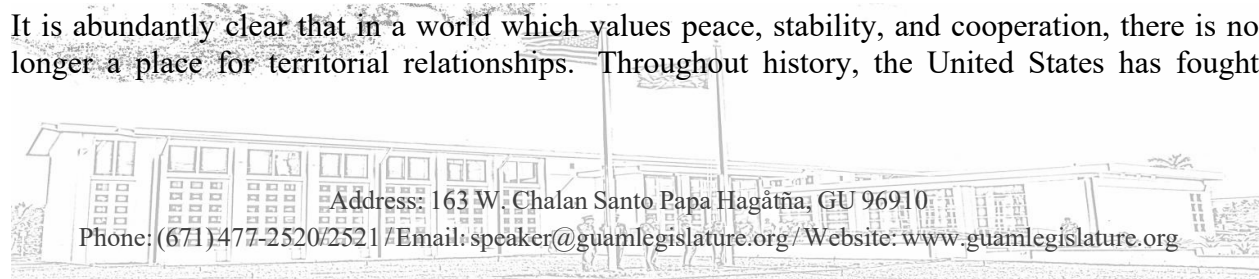
No, no comments but I just want to express my appreciation to the Public Policy Institute members who testified. You know history in the making is always fascinating and even to have an opinion about supporting something is- I find a great privilege. And so, I just wanted to thank them for their input today.

Speaker Tina Muña Barnes:

Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Senator Torres thank you very much. And with that being said- if there's no one else on the list to present I will have called resolution 335-35 publicly heard. Anyone else wishing to- I have just been noted before we put closure on this one that we did receive written testimony from the director of the decolonization Mr. Melvin Wan-Pat Borja, and he would be submitting it to this committee.

I was asked that I read his testimony madam- *Håfa Adai* madam Speaker, in regard to Resolution 335-35, relative to supporting statehood for the people of Washington D.C., I would like to submit the following testimony.

It is abundantly clear that in a world which values peace, stability, and cooperation, there is no longer a place for territorial relationships. Throughout history, the United States has fought



multiple wars in pursuit of liberty, freedom, and equal rights for its citizens, yet in 2020 the structures that uphold political inequality remain. Guam has fought since the Spanish colonial era for our right to self-determination and our people have never wavered in our desire for a higher level of self-governance and the freedom to decide our political future on our own terms. Unlike many other places around the world, Guam's stance on decolonization and political self-determination have remained consistent and our desire for recognition and dignity are not influenced by partisan politics.

Ironically even in the Nation's capital, citizens are experiencing the disparities that are created by political inequality and the people of Washington D.C. have expressed their displeasure with their status quo. Like Guam, Washington D.C. has outgrown its current political status and incremental changes are no longer acceptable. It is clear that the only solution to the inequity that serves to undermine the very principles of democracy, is to address the shortcomings of territorial political status with genuine efforts toward the exercise of self-determination. Many proponents of the Statehood effort for Washington D.C., consistently assert that the lack of representation in the American political system has led to the systematic disenfranchisement and marginalization of their 700,000 citizens.

We too in Guam feel a sense of disenfranchisement, marginalization, and even abandonment as we deal with the disparities and challenges in an unincorporated territory existence. The Government of Guam faces the challenges of insufficient federal funding, navigating unfunded federal mandates, we experience unilateral control of our local government by the federal government, and yet we still consider ourselves to be American citizens and assume that our rights are protected under the Constitution, like any other citizen. We have participated in the American political family in good faith, positioning our lands, oceans, and even our people in war and strategic military positioning - all on the assumption that we are equal partners and that we will be treated with dignity and respect. But we have seen time and again, that our relationship is one that values consultation more than collaboration and mitigation more than mutual consent.

It is my hope that the elevation of the political inequality that Washington D.C. is experiencing, will in turn bring much needed attention to the same inequity that exists for the island of Guam. I look forward to the coming debate and I am optimistic that this will help raise awareness about the need for political self-determination in Guam.

Melvin Won Pat-Borja Executive Director Commission on Decolonization. Thank you, I was asked that I- read he was in a meeting and I want to thank Mr. Borja- Mr. Wan-Pat Borja for sending that statement in. So, if there are no further statements from anybody, I will call resolution 335-35 (COR) publicly heard. And if anyone in the listening audience would wish to testify on this resolution please submit testimony by e-mailing speaker@guamlegislature.org, or by sending it to 163 Hessler- 163, sorry Chalan Santa Papa Hagåtña , Guam 96910.

The public hearing was adjourned at 2:50 PM



III. WRITTEN TESTIMONIES IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION NO. 335-35 (COR).

- Mark Wang
- Aila Rodriguez
- Melvin Won Pat-Borja Executive Director Commission on Decolonization

IV. FINDING & RECOMMENDATIONS

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author, hereby reports out Resolution No. 335-35 (COR), As Introduced.



Address: 163 W. Chalan Santo Papa Hagåtña, GU 96910

Phone: (671) 477-2520/2521 / Email: speaker@guamlegislature.org / Website: www.guamlegislature.org

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

Resolution No. 335-35 (COR)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE
PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C.**

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

WHEREAS, the nation that is built on the spirit of patriotism and unity, sadly denies equal political rights to the residents of Washington D.C. and Guam in the U.S. Congress. Both our delegates do not have a vote on the final passage of legislation, and unlike D.C., Guam has no votes in the Electoral College. Both the residents of D.C. and Guam lack many fundamental rights afforded to citizens of the fifty states, including full Congressional representation; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Guam and D.C. both served in the past wars and contributed dearly with their lives in making this nation strong- are still unrepresented and denied citizenship equality; deprived of their own star in that sacred flag we hold so dearly; and

WHEREAS, no other nation in the world denies right to self-governance – including lack of participation and access in the practice of our political rights in the United States Congress by the Framers of the Constitution of the United States – represents serious breaches of universal and human rights, violating Article 2 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that “*no distinction shall be*

1 *made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country*
2 *or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-*
3 *governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty;” and*

4 **WHEREAS**, unlike Guam, the residents of Washington, D.C. pay more in total
5 federal income tax than residents of 22 other states but have no say over how those tax
6 dollars are spent; and

7 **WHEREAS**, although the people of Guam has yet to decide on a political status,
8 Washington, D.C. residents affirmed their desire to become a state, and 86% of voters
9 supported Statehood in a publicly sponsored plebiscite in 2016; and

10 **WHEREAS**, D.C. residents continue to express their support for D.C. Statehood
11 by voting to elect non-voting shadow US Senators and Representatives, in publicly
12 sponsored elections; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Guam and Washington D.C. both functions and perform all the
14 duties that is assigned to states, like administration, health and public services that also
15 serves active duty members in the region; and

16 **WHEREAS**, we exist in a so-called democracy where our voices are oppressed-
17 however, Guam is not alone in the fight to be heard; now therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that recognizing the history of our nation’s foundation on the
19 principle of the rights of all people to self-government that *I Liheslaturan Guahan*
20 supports statehood for the people of Washington, D.C. to govern themselves without
21 congressional interference and call upon the United States Congress and the American
22 people to make Washington, D.C. the 51st State in the United States of America; and be
23 it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
25 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
26 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas,

1 Congressman, United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Carolyn
2 Maloney, Chairwoman on the House Committee on Oversight and Reform; The
3 Honorable Jim McGovern, Chairman on the House Committee on Rules; The
4 Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives; The Honorable
5 Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader of Senate; The Honorable Eleanor Holmes
6 Norton, Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives; The Honorable Paul
7 Strauss, Shadow Senator, United States Senate; Ralph Bunche, General-Secretary,
8 Unrepresented Nations & Peoples Organization; Melvin Won Pat-Borja, Executive
9 Director of the Commission on Decolonization; and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon
10 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 MONTH 2020.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary