



Office of the Governor of Guahan

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2010 JUL -9 AM 10:37

WJK

Felix P. Camacho  
Governor

Michael W. Cruz, M.D.  
Lieutenant Governor

JUL 08 2010

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
Speaker  
Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
155 Hessler Street  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

30-10-0574  
Office of the Speaker  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.  
Date 7/8/2010  
Time 4:45 PM  
Received by JTD

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is Bill No. 356-30 (COR) "AN ACT TO AMEND §3414 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REDUCING THE HOURS OF SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", which I signed into law on July 8, 2010 as Public Law 30-154.

Sinseru yan Magâhet,

MICHAEL W. CRUZ, M.D.  
I Maga'lâhen Guahan para pa'go  
Acting Governor of Guahan

Attachment: copy of Bill

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN

This is to certify that Bill No. 356-30 (COR), "AN ACT TO AMEND §3414 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO REDUCING THE HOURS OF SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES", was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2010, duly and regularly passed.



Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D.  
Speaker

Attested:



Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2010, at  
5 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer  
*Maga'lahi's Office*

APPROVED:



MIKE W. CRUZ, MD  
GOVERNOR OF GUAM ACTING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

JUL 08 2010

Public Law No. P.L. 30-154

**I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2010 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Bill No. 356-30 (COR)**

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz  
T. C. Ada  
V. Anthony Ada  
F. B. Aguon Jr.  
F. F. Blas, Jr.  
E. J.B. Calvo  
J. V. Espaldon  
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA  
T. R. Muña Barnes  
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.  
v. c. pangelinan  
R. J. Respicio  
Telo Taitague  
Ray Tenorio  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

**AN ACT TO AMEND §3414 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER  
3, TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED,  
RELATIVE TO REDUCING THE HOURS OF SALE OF  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

1        **BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

2        **Section 1.**    §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11, Guam Code Annotated  
3 is hereby *amended* to read:

4                “§3414.        **Hours of Sale. On-Sale Premises.** An on-sale licensee  
5        *shall not sell or* serve any person any alcoholic beverages between the hours  
6        of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., *provided, however,* that all alcoholic beverages

1            must be consumed within fifteen (15) minutes of the time permitted for the  
2            sale thereof and premise(s) *shall* be closed *no later than* 3:00 a.m. thereafter.  
3            A licensee may begin selling or serving alcoholic beverages at 8:00 a.m.,  
4            Monday through Sunday, inclusive.”



Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Senator vicente (ben) c. pangelinan (D)

June 21, 2010

**The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.**

Speaker

*I Mina'trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

155 Hesler Place

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: **The Honorable Rory J. Respicio**

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**RE: Committee Report on Bill No. 356-30 (COR)**

Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report of Bill No. 356-30 (COR):  
"An act to amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages," which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land.

Committee votes are as follows:

4 TO PASS  
     NOT TO PASS  
1 TO REPORT OUT ONLY  
     TO ABSTAIN  
     TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase,*

Senator vicente c. pangelinan  
Chairman

2010 JUN 28 PM 1:37

MM

Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
Retirement, and Land

Member  
Committee on Education

Member  
Committee on  
Municipal Affairs,  
Aviation, Housing, and  
Recreation

Member  
Committee on Labor, the  
Public Structure,  
Public Libraries, and  
Technology

Committee Report  
on

Bill No. 356-30 (COR)

“An act to amend §3414 of Article 4,  
Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code  
Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale  
for alcoholic beverages.”



Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Senator vicente (ben) c. pangelinan (D)

June 21, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**To: All Members**  
Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
retirement, and Land

**From: Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan**  
Committee Chairperson

**Subject: Committee Report on Bill No. 356-30(COR)**

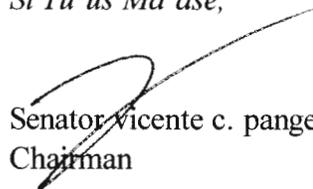
Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on Bill No. 356-30 (COR): "An act to amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages," sponsored by Vice Speaker B.J.F. Cruz.

This report includes the following:

1. Committee Voting Sheet
2. Committee Report Narrative
3. Copy of Bill No. 356-30 (COR)
4. Public Hearing Sign-in Sheets
5. Copies of Submitted Testimony and Supporting Documents
6. Copy of COR Referral of Bill No. 356-30 (COR)
7. Notices of Public Hearing
8. Copy of Public Hearing Agency
9. Fiscal Note

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

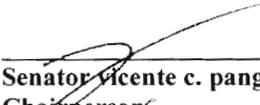
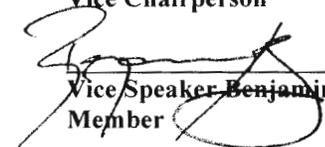
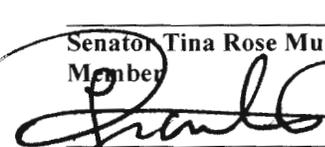
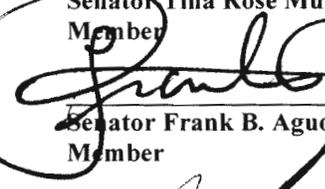
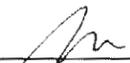
*Si Yu'us Ma'ase,*



Senator vicente c. pangelinan  
Chairman

*I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN*  
**Committee Voting Sheet**  
**Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement,**  
**and Land**

**Bill No. 356-30 (COR): An act to amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages.**

Committee Members	To Pass	Not To Pass	Report Out	Abstain	Inactive Files
 Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan Chairperson	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____
 Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D. Vice Chairperson	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz Member	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Member	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
 Senator Frank B. Aguon, Jr. Member	_____	_____	✓ _____	_____	_____
 Senator Judith P. Guthertz Member	✓ _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senator James V. Espaldon Member	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senator Telo T. Taitague Member	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Senator Frank Blas, Jr. Member	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

6/23/10



# Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Senator vicente (ben) c. pangelinan (D)

## Committee Report

Bill No. 356-30 (COR): "An Act to Amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages."

Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
Retirement, and Land

Member  
Committee on Education

Member  
Committee on  
Municipal Affairs,  
Aviation, Housing, and  
Recreation

Member  
Committee on Labor, the  
Public Structure,  
Public Libraries, and  
Technology

### I. OVERVIEW

The Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land convened a public hearing on June 9, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room.

#### Public Notice Requirements

Notices were disseminated via hand-delivery and e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on June 2, 2010 (5-Day Notice), and again on June 7, 2010 (48 Hour Notice).

#### Committee Members and Senators Present

Committee Chairman vicente "ben" pangelinan  
Speaker Judith T. Won Pat  
Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Senator V. Anthony Ada  
Senator Thomas C. Ada  
Senator Frank F. Blas  
Senator Telo Taitague

#### Appearing Before the Committee

Tishauna Smith  
Kaianna Smith  
Christina Moffet  
Dr. Gislani  
Pramila Sullivan  
Dr. Jeffrey Gable  
Dr. Chris Billing, OB/GYN, Guam Memorial Hospital  
Thomas Shieh, MD, Board Certified Diplomat, American Board of  
Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Christine Camacho  
Daniel Osborn, President, Youth for Youth Live! Guam

Sean Rupley, Vice President, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
Baron Mafnas, Secretary, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
Marlijo Serineo, Treasurer, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
Audrey J.A. Topasna, Underage Drinking Prevention Coordinator, Prevention and Early Intervention Advisory Community Empowerment (PEACE)  
Don P. Sabang, Substance Abuse Program Supervisor, Drug and Alcohol Branch, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
Kok Lim, CEW Administrator, Guam Seventh Day Adventist Clinic  
Emmanuel Espino, Programs Director, Magof Health  
Denisha Sulio, Y.E.S. Crew, Sanctuary  
Liberty Sulio, Y.E.S. Crew, Sanctuary  
Stephanie Guzman, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Sanctuary, Inc.  
Cecilia Javier, Department of Public Works Office of Highway Safety  
Michael Robinson, MD  
Seth Ferrell, Surgery Supervisor, Guam Seventh Day Adventist Clinic  
Bernadette Santos, President, Guam Nurses Association  
Cely Magrobang, Nursing Supervisor, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority  
Vince Akimoto, MD  
Patrick Nelson, Association of Nightclub Owners

**Written Testimonies Submitted**

William H. Foster, Ph.D., President & CEO, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University  
Christina Moffet, “Alcohol’s Effects on the Brain”  
Pramila Sullivan  
Raymond Taniguchi, MD  
J. James Rohack, MD, President, American Medical Association  
Thomas Shieh, MD, Board Certified Diplomat, American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Christine D. Camacho  
Daniel Osborn, President, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
Sean Rupley, Vice President, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
Baron Mafnas, Secretary, Youth for Youth Live! Guam  
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Don P. Sabang, Substance Abuse Program Supervisor, Drug and Alcohol Branch, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
Nathaniel Berg, MD  
Emmanuel Espino, Programs Director, Magof Health  
Denisha Sulio, Y.E.S. Crew, Sanctuary  
Liberty Sulio, Y.E.S. Crew, Sanctuary  
Stephanie Guzman, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Sanctuary, Inc.  
Andrew S. Leon Guerrero, Director / Governor’s Highway Safety Representative, Department of Public Works Office of Highway Safety  
Lee Meadows, MD  
Michael Robinson, MD

Laura Dean-Mooney, National President, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)  
Bernadette Santos, President, Guam Nurses Association  
Karen Cruz, Chairwoman, Commission on Nursing Leadership  
Kevin G. Hitosis, Guam Nurses Association  
Patrick Nelson, Guam Association of Club Executives  
Annette M. David, MD, MPH, Health Partners, LLC  
Linda B. Salas, Chairperson – Victim Advocacy, Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
Barbara S.N. Benavente  
Chen Huang, MD  
Maria Teresa C. Lozada  
Peter J. Cruz  
April Aguon  
Amy Britton  
Natalie Blaz  
Naomi Blaz  
Brooke Estes  
Tobias Estes

## **II. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS**

### **Chairman Summary**

Chairman pangelinan: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I just wanted to open this hearing to kind of get the agenda in order. Before I do that, I would like to recognize my colleagues that are here with me. This is a public hearing by the Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land on the matter of nine different bills this morning. We have received some requests by the committee from some members of the community on the matter of great interest to them and most of you that are here as I understand that's on Bill 389. All but Bill 389 is placed in numerical order; I requested if possible to put 389 on the top of the agenda to receive some testimonies from some of the members of the community as well as the medical community who may have some additional needs to return to their jobs this morning to attend to their patients. We will accommodate that request and most of you that are here for that, we will begin with Bill 389 this morning.

This morning on Bill 389, the first person that I have signed up is Mr. Patrick Nelson who will submit written testimony and he is in support of it. If Mr. Nelson wishes to also present an oral testimony then I invite him up to the witness table. Then Offing Jackson signed up to present oral testimony. Christina Moffet has also signed up in support of the bill and Tishauna Smith also signed up. So these individuals are also going to present oral testimony. Please come up to the front. So if I can, the individuals that I called up, if they're going to be presenting oral testimony then please come up and we will begin with this and then we will go ahead and call the next panel of members which are other members of the medical community that are seen walking in. Was Patrick Nelson going present a oral testimony? If not I have another seat, Linda Salas is signed up to present oral testimony and she also is in favor of the bill.

## **Testimony**

Tishauna Smith: Good morning, my name is Tishauna Smith. Today I sit here in support of Bill 389, raising the drinking age to twenty-one. There are many commercial campaigns out there that tell you to drink responsibly; those words however sometimes fall on deaf ears. As many of you know, my honey was killed by a drunk driver. She was of the legal age to consume alcohol, but did so in a terribly irresponsible manner. I realize that there is no real means to prevent a loved one from an impaired driver, but we can reduce the number of casualties by increasing the prevented measures and educate the public in responsible drinking, then that is a stepping stone.

Kaianna Smith: Good morning, my name is Kaianna Smith and I am wearing this shirt today because I am my daddy's voice. So I sit beside my mom wanting to see this bill approved, any measures that we can use to prevent the loss of a life of an impaired drunk driver is worth our efforts here today. Raising the drinking age is what my daddy would have wanted. Thank you.

Christina Moffet: submitted written testimony, "Alcohol's Effects on the Brain". [see attached]

## **Panel Comments and Questions**

Senator BJ Cruz: I just want to thank young Miss Smith for the bravery that you showed in coming today, and Mrs. Smith.

Chairman pangelinan: The next panel we have; I'll just give one more panel before I call some of the doctors that are here. I will call Dr. Geslani, who I see in the back, he was my medical escort when I went off island, without him I wouldn't be back, so I want to give him some courtesy here, if you don't mind ladies and gentleman. I also have Pramila Sullivan. Is she here? Also Dr. Shieh. Is there any medical professional whose here that may need to get back to a patient? Dr. Gable we will have you up with this panel.

Dr. Geslani, Guam Seventh Day Adventist Clinic. I have been a physician here on Guam for twenty years and I consider this place home for me. As I look at each one of you this morning I feel somewhat encouraged and I direct this to Vice Speaker BJ Cruz and Senator ben for taking the courage to actually bring this legislation to the legislature and for us to be able to discuss it this morning.

As you know the medical community and the community at large about a couple of years ago had a coalition and we tried as best as we could with the leadership here and the physicians, Dr. Shieh and other leaders here in the community to get the message out that drinking to start with has really caused a lot of burden not only to the medical community but also the social fabric of our community. So, I really feel very encouraged that the legislature has taken up this bill and put it in hearing. What I hope as you will hear from all the speakers this morning about the medical, social, emotional community effects of alcohol that there would be nine senators in this legislature who will be willing to stand up and call themselves and say we are

here for this community, we are here for these young people, we are here to be able to keep this community away from the hospital, away from the emergency room and away from the crying from the grief.

As we just heard from Mrs. Smith and what the effects alcohol has, I hope that if not all the fifteen senators are going to vote for this bill, at least nine of them. I see each one of you this morning and I think that I believe that you being here early this morning have taken the opportunity, the willingness to stand and work for the community.

A couple of things in this bill that I would like to point out, one of the things that I was looking at the three bills that was shared with us. The bill that is 389-30 goes with the other 357-30,356-30. Let me just point a few things on the bill that I would like to share at this meeting.

First of all 357-30 when it comes to the penalties, I would like to say that and this may not tell with 389-30, is that when you want to put penalties it would probably be better if you put high penalties to make people scared. When it comes to section B 336-30 same hearing penalties for licenses - this is in bill 357-30. I would recommend that we would go up to one thousand five hundred for the first offense and then go up a thousand each until the fourth offense. That would be my suggestion on 357-30. Instead of starting off at seven hundred fifty for first offense I would go up to one thousand five hundred for the first offense.

On bill 356-30 on the sale, I do have some information that states the time of highest death in driving accidents that we see in the community is usually from the time of twelve midnight to three a.m. in the morning, The second highest would be from nine p.m. to midnight and third would be from six p.m. to nine p.m. In that regard I would recommend if this bill depending on what the legislature would like, basing just from the information that we have, have the hours from twelve midnight to eight a.m. rather than two a.m. to eight a.m. I congratulate the legislature for removing new years day and holidays from weekends. This is actually times when holidays are when most of the driving accidents happen. My recommendation would be from twelve midnight to eight a.m. on bill 356-30. Then lastly on the bill 389-30, on the section that says a license 3419 in which the violation will be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. I would also probably state a fine for those who sale alcohol to people that are below twenty-one. It should be written in what is stated on bill 357-30 and that should be included in the bill itself stating that there should be fines starting with one thousand five hundred, for any licensing who would sell alcohol to a minor who's not the age of twenty one. Those are my comments Senator, and I'll give time to others to state other important information on what alcohol can do to the body.

Pramila Sullivan: Submitted written testimony. [see attached]

Dr. Jeffrey Gable: Submitted written testimony in behalf Dr. Raymond Taniguchi. [see attached.]

As an OBGYN I am not directly involved with many of the traumatic aspects of alcohol use. The areas that I'm most exposed to are those associated with young age and pregnancy. The

effects of alcohol on pregnancy such as fetal alcohol syndrome and the effects socially on the young when they combine alcohol drinking with the propensity of youth for behavior that is not as responsible. Many times you see on the television the advertisement for different alcohol beverages and they say please drink responsible; as if this is their sole responsibility in mitigating contribution to the problem associated with alcohol. They never say what is responsible drinking and as adults we can say that responsible drinking is drinking at a time and place that doesn't interfere with anyone's safety or the sanctity of your home or family. These are things we know as adults, but as youth's alcohol is treated more like a rollercoaster ride, treated as an experience. In order to have that experience there is a larger tendency to over drink and become inebriated and taking the propensity in irresponsible behavior adding alcohol which takes a way even more inhabitations then irresponsible behavior increases.

Looking at the hours of operations, I wanted to agree with midnight eight a.m. prohibition simply because alcohol by itself is a problem, but as the hours become later and later fatigue becomes a factor as well. Now you are adding a depressant on top of fatigue and then that person needs to get in the car and drive home. Often they are not thinking straight enough to ask for a designated driver or find someone to help, or possibly get into some sort of social trouble for asking someone to come and help them. I think the youth is less likely to ask for help. I wanted to give some examples of patients that I've have personally taken care of and so this would be the end of my presentation.

Just three individuals and I have many more examples that follow along these similar lines. A twenty one year old young man when I was in medical school training came in with jaundice, yellowing of the eyes and skin, feeling ill and with a medical work up he was noted to have significant liver damage. With discussion it was found that he was not a binge drinker, he was not a party animal, but his family made it a habit of drinking at least one full tumbler of wine at each evening meal and then possibly a little more in the later evening. So even though this young man was not out doing what we consider the youth party animal spirit, he was suffering the damage of early alcohol use.

Number two, a young women that I was called to the emergency room to evaluate for a sexual assault. This young woman had gone to a party at someone's home and became very ill and asked for a place to lay down. So they took her to the room where they put all the coats and hats in one of the bedrooms. While she was there some gentleman came in and assaulted her, sodomized her. She did not remember the incident whatsoever, only woke up with the evidence later. It was up to us to try and figure out any evidence that was available to help her find this perpetrator. It's certainly terrible that some man would take advantage of a young woman like this and also if she hadn't been drinking in such a young age she would not have been in this situation.

Another young women in a very similar situation, only she was a little more cognizant, met a young man at a house party. She met this young man and had a one-night stand. Out of which she became pregnant and I would deliver her child. She wasn't against having her baby, but it took her several weeks to find out who the father was and track him down and let him know that he was the father. She couldn't remember his name, she didn't know where he lived and

she had to go back and ask people from the party who it was she had been with. These are single examples, but this is what happens when, especially youth partake in alcohol and mix that with their never-die spirit, inexperience to deal with real life situations.

Dr. Chris Billing, Obstetrician/Gyneologist for Indigent Care, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. I have in front of me a statement from the National Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, which I fully support and I would like to submit personally and let me brief and sweet. We have already heard powerful testimony for the social effects for the chemical effects, the effects on youth brain. Alcohol triggers our pleasure centers. We want our young people to be happy and feel good about themselves, but we don't want this through alcohol, we want them to be productive members of the community, advance their academic standing or through wholesome activities and not through alcohol. I see no value young people being exposed under twenty one and I support this bill. Thank you.

Dr. Thomas Shieh. Read written testimony on behalf of J. James Rohack, MD, President, American Medical Association. [see attached]

Now I will move on to my personal testimony. What I wanted to share with you, sometimes word can't describe photos and I think, for my personal sake, in medical school, I like looking at photos so I think I want to share my experience in learning from my medical school years with you.

Now, Chairman pangelinan, members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature, thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of raising Guam's legal drinking age to twenty-one. I would like to disclose that I have no conflict of interest in coming before you today. The interest of this bill is to save lives and families. That said, I firmly believe that all senators of this Legislature have no conflict of interest if you vote yes to pass this bill. I hope that's understood. The only conflict of interest that will emerge will be if you walk away or if you vote no on this bill. Voting yes is in the best interest of public health and safety.

What we are advocating here is consistent with what has already been stated by the Health and Human Services National Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association, the National Cancer Center of Addiction and Substance Abuse, just to name a few, are all in favor of this bill, 389, to raise the legal drinking age to twenty-one.

Drinking alcohol under the age of twenty-one can have catastrophic consequences both for young people and their families. Alcohol damage to their brain interferes with mental and social development, interrupt academic progress. It is the major contributing factor in the three leading causes of death in young adults: accidents, homicides, and suicides, and increases the chance for juvenile delinquency and crime. You have a good senator, Senator Ada, I think you believe you work in DOC [should be DYA] before, he can tell you first hand, within the Legislature, alcohol is one of the biggest problems that we have in juvenile delinquencies.

The myth of those who say, if I'm old enough to go to war, I should be old enough to drink—

that's just a myth. Many rights have different ages of initiation. You can't get a hunting license until you're age of twelve or maybe fourteen in some states; drive at the age of 16; vote and serve in the military at the age of 18. Reality is you can serve in the military at the age of 17 with parent's consent. To serve in the Legislature, you ask yourself, you passed a law; you set the age at 25. Why is that? Is it education? Experience? I've seen 22 year-olds that have a Ph.D. and more work experience than any other senator who's been up there before.

Alcohol, our United States national standard is age twenty-one. And it's there because research has shown that a person's brain does not stop developing until his or her early to mid-twenties. Drinking alcohol while the brain is still developing can lead to long lasting deficit in cognitive ability, including learning and memory. Now I reference this photo right here [gestures] if you notice on this photograph here, the blue part of the brain is cognitive ability of the developing brain. Our brain continues to develop until in the mid-twenties. Any form of alcohol substance abuse that comes into play here is going to deter that development.

In addiction centers in the teens are very, very strong. Any kind of substance abuse that come into play here, they will be addicted for life. So that is the key here—the brain development. If you look at this picture that Dr. Billing is holding, on the right side, on your left, shows the normal brain. On the right side of the brain is atrophy brain of an alcoholic. So if you can see that, the abuse of it, I think you can see the dramatic effect of what alcohol does to the central nervous system. It's a drug. It's a drug. And that drug has its age of use, and age of not to use.

It is not an issue of morality, about fighting for war. I've been in military myself. I served my country, I've been an officer in the Navy, and that's how I ended up here on Guam. I served in the Naval Hospital. The number one captain's massive discharge is alcohol-related incidents. If you really, truly support our troops, don't put a drink in their hands and say, "Drink up, soldier." You support them by saying that, "Don't drink until the age of 21. We want you to be all you can be and not hinder that process." As a Naval officer, I can speak to that fact.

Now, in 2004, the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse concluded that alcohol abuse and dependency is a developmental disorder—it's a disorder. What that means is that the addiction process starts young. That confirms these pictures here. An analysis published in issue of Biological Psychiatry also stated the onset of alcohol dependency peaks at the age of 18 and 19. You are allowing 18 and 19 year olds to start drinking. How is that making sense when the peak of addiction starts at 18 or 19?

The Centers for Disease Control stated that the highest rate of STDs among all populations, adults versus youngsters, is under the age of 21. On Guam, we have one of the highest of HPV infections probably in the country. I see it every day in my office. Ages 18, 19, 21—full-blown Chlamydia, HPV infections. That is something that you don't see, but I see on the front lines.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in substance abuse supports the drinking age of 21. The Health and Human Services of the United States of America is asking you, senators, to enforce a 21 Law. That's all we're asking. We're not saying 25, 30. Just follow

the national standards. When I practice medicine, you asked me, do I follow any standards. Yes, I do. It's time that we follow that standard.

Over 400 percent increase in alcohol-related admission to GMH and Mental Health. This is from Guam substance abuse profile in 2006. You can read that for yourself. It goes on and on and on. I'm not going to keep going on this. One thing I want to bring to the fact to the senators here is that—and those senators who is not here, I hope they can pick up the tape and replay it for them because it's important—each year Guam averages one of the highest DUI arrests. And the common argument that I hear: “Well, a majority of the people who is caught for DUI are above the age of twenty-one.”

Common sense will tell you, there's fifty years of drivers above the age of twenty-one. Statistics will tell you that there's more drivers above the age of twenty-one. But if you look at statistics, if you look into the deep statistics, you break it down, eighteen- and nineteen- and twenty-year-olds statistically have about seventy DUIs, around there, to around ninety, average per year. That's a lot, comparing to a small island like ours. That is a lot. That's about eight percent. If you extrapolate that, we should be less than five percent in that age group. But we are almost doubling the DUI arrests. Good for police department. Every DUI that's caught, I don't know how many are missed, so you multiply that by two or three times. I encourage you to look at the statistics very, very carefully.

The reality, some people only focus on traffic fatalities but that's just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the effects of alcohol. Some fatalities you take notice and I want to bring to you notice today. With permission of Mrs. Oberiano, I'm sure many of you know who this person is, if you do, just nod. Ramon Oberiano, aged thirty-nine. I never got to know Ramon and I wish I did. He sounds like a wonderful father, wonderful husband. He was killed early on a Saturday morning while riding his bicycle with a group on Marine Drive in Piti. According to police, Oberiano was struck by a vehicle from behind. He died two hours later as a result of his injuries. Two other victims, both women, were also injured. The vehicle's driver was a nineteen-year-old Kevin Michael Jackson, a sailor from the U.S.S. Frank Cable. He was driving under the influence of alcohol at the age of 19—under the age of twenty-one. Let me remind you that as Father's Day approaches next week, Ramon's kids won't have his father next to them because he was killed by a drunk driver. Nineteen-year-old Kevin Jackson is sitting in jail right now. You have two lives destroyed. One sailor and one husband. Two lives gone, two families disrupted.

It makes you wonder if the minimum drinking age law were twenty-one at that time, would that have saved Ramon Oberiano's life? Deep inside of me, I truly believe that would have. Deep inside of me, I believe that if MLDA was twenty-one, this nineteen-year-old sailor, Kevin Jackson, would not have drank alcohol and as he would have followed the law. But the law on Guam was eighteen and that responsibility rests with you senators. Take responsibility for your actions, the action that you did not take. You have the power to save lives. You did not act. Today, you have the power to act; do not let another father die because you did not act. You don't need to be a doctor or nurse; you can help us save lives by passing Bill 389. Raise the minimum drinking age to twenty-one.

There are no more lives to waste. Don't wait for another victim to be killed or disabled, one more family or young man's life destroyed. I wish I could have met Ramon, like I said, he sounds like a great man. He's pictured here. His wife, this morning, and I shared with her my condolences again, because Father's Day is approaching us next week, and to his kids. I told her I was really sorry that I wasn't able to help in raising the drinking age back then. Now, please don't tell me that this was just one incident. Let us not forget about eighteen-year-old Jonathan Borja. If you recall, Jonathan was eighteen at the time when he was drinking. He was driving his truck to get more beer and he slammed into a young girl named Lisa. Beautiful girl, if you ever see her picture, beautiful young girl. Fifteen-year-old was just walking home from school. She was slammed by Jonathan's truck. She was dead on impact. She never even had the opportunity to go to her prom or graduate from high school. There are many other victims and families. I don't intend to remind you of every single one of them.

It will take me forever being here. You know who they are; you probably attended their rosaries. Recognize also that many victims involved in alcohol incidents don't die. They are left with lifelong disabilities. Sure, it's about personal responsibility, but that's a vague term, like Dr. Gabriel said. When the alcohol company says, "Drink responsibly," research has shown that it's vague and contradictory to the ads. When we have a banner on Guam that says, "Beer: All you can drink", this is a collective responsibility. It is important to know your responsibility as senators, which is to pass good laws. And MLDA 21 is a law that will save lives and families. It is a law that is in place in all fifty states. I've seen many senators introduce a bill and reference, "eighteen states have this bill" or "twenty states have this bill" or "Guam should pass that bill because so-and-so states has it."

Well, fifty states of the United States of America has a minimum drinking age of twenty-one. Come on, senators. This is a no-brainer. MLDA of twenty-one is a critical component of a strategy to help our children grow up to lead healthy and productive lives. Other key elements of prevention strategies, after you pass this bill, is to include things like regulating alcohol advertising and increasing alcohol taxes. That's a must. These are all comprehensive strategies and it's a collective responsibility of you senators. So all we asking for you is to help us save lives and families. And I believe that Ramon, Lisa, and every life that's lost to the alcohol would be alive today if MLDA 21 was the law. Or at least they would have the chance that perhaps that person who killed them under the influence of alcohol would follow that law.

Lastly, the United States military on Guam has already raised the drinking age to twenty-one. In order for us to prepare for the military buildup, we must support our troops by following the national standards. Or we will see harm to not just our military, but to our public health and safety, as well, in the entire community. So senators, for every life that you help us save, you provide that particular life saved his or her opportunity to save others. You have the ability to pass and save life forward. So do the right thing. Pass Bill 389 and pass this life forward. You have the ability to do so. Don't let it slip the opportunity and get this bill out of committed, voted on, and pass it.

I am Dr. Thomas Shieh and I'm a board certified diplomat of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology and I sit before you, also with other letters but I'm going to give

the other people opportunity to speak on my behalf. And also, I really want you to take a good look at this picture: Ramon Oberiano. Don't forget what happened. Don't forget what happened. This could be you; this could be me. My kids could be without a father tomorrow if I was out there and I was riding my bike and was hit by a drunk driver. This could be any of us in this room, any of us sitting here, behind me, could be out there, could be in the same position as Ramon's family that's going without a father this Father's Day. So as you celebrate Father's Day today, I asked you, senators, to remember this particular father who is not here today because he was killed by a nineteen-year-old drunk driver. Thank you.

### **Panel Comments and Questions**

Sen. pangelinan: Thank you very much, Dr. Shieh. Any comments from? If not, I want to thank the panel and we'll excuse them. I know you may have to get back to some business. Thank you very much for your testimony this morning. We'll proceed with the other individuals who have signed up. I have a Christine Camacho, who's signed up. I also have a group signed up here. Baron Mafnas, Daniel Osborn, Sean Rupley, Marlijo Serineo, the Youth for Youth group has signed up. I have a Barbara S.N. Benavente. I know she's off-island. We received her written testimony. Audrey Topasna. I think that would be it for now. Come forward please, we have one more chair. And then we'll just proceed with receiving your testimony. Okay? All right. Please make sure you turn the mic on and identify yourself for the record. When the red light's on that means the mic is on also. Okay?

Christine Camacho: Good morning, senators. My name is Christine Camacho and I'm here as a mother, a prevention advocate, student, and my brother's keeper. Dear Senator pangelinan, I am a firm believer that the above bills are important measures that could save the lives of many, deter the negative and social effects associated with alcohol abuse, and prevent underage drinking in our community. As a community member that has dealt with alcohol abuse, I humbly ask that the members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature consider passing all of the above bills for the safety and well being of our children and families. I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of underage drinking and alcohol abuse in my family. This is difficult for me to talk about because this pertains to my brother. My brother Josh was seventeen years old when he got tangled in a world of addiction and drug addiction, in a world of alcohol and drug addiction. He got his alcohol from friends that were eighteen years old and above. If the minimum legal drinking age were raised to twenty-one, then more than likely my brother would have not been exposed to these designated buyers who were eighteen, nineteen, twenty years old that contributed to his delinquent behaviors.

Josh hung around the wrong crowd and nearly went to jail for crimes committed while abusing alcohol. He was young and faced the possibility of eight years in prison. He had an alcohol and drug addiction and needed help but saw no way out. Society shunned him away and family members referred to him as an alcoholic, a loser, a drug addict, and suggested that he be locked in prison. This is my baby brother, my little brother, my one and only brother, who was a troubled kid that needed love and parental guidance.

I remember him crying in my bathroom, asking me to help him get better. At this moment, I knew that my brother needed me; otherwise something drastic could've happened to him. He

expressed thoughts of suicide and feared going to jail. As a mother and an older sister, I needed to shield him from more danger and reassure him that things would get better. I became my brother's keeper and his guardian. I worked out an agreement with the Attorney General's office to take him to weekly counseling sessions at the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Drug and Alcohol Treatment Branch. He finished high school but staying sober was difficult, especially because he experienced withdrawal symptoms such as hallucinations, cold and night sweats, and paranoia. Relapse episodes led to binge drinking and a near death experience. On constant guard, I felt helpless as I watched my younger brother struggle through recovery. All I kept thinking was he is too young to be dealing with the effects of alcohol abuse. That is why raising the drinking age is so important. It would make it harder for other young people like Josh to easily access alcohol through designated buyers and allow them to seriously think about the consequences of their actions.

Today, thankfully Josh is doing better. He joined the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in England. He's twenty-two now and has a better outlook on life, which is to excel in his military career. Josh tells me how grateful he is that I intervened and saved his life when he hit rock bottom. My brother was given a second chance because of the support of programs that kept him sober. Again, I ask you to consider passing bills 356-30, 357-30, and 389-30 and to raise the legal drinking age to twenty-one, to give others like Josh a chance to clearly make important life choices. I practice prevention both in my personal and my professional life and I would feel more at ease knowing that there are laws in place that will safeguard my children and others from the detrimental effects of alcohol abuse. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my personal testimony.

### **Panel Comments and Questions**

Chairman Pangelinan: Thank you very much.

Sean Rupley: Hello, I'm Sean Rupley.

Daniel Osborn: My name is Daniel Osborn.

Baron Mafnas: My name is Baron Mafnas.

Sean Rupley: We'll be reading our testimony on behalf of Youth for Youth Live! Guam. For the past twenty-two years, the Youth for Youth Live Guam organization has advocated for change in our island community and has promoted positive alcohol- and drug-free lifestyles and healthy alternatives among our island's youth. We, the officers of Youth for Youth Live Guam, respectfully submit this testimony in support of Bill 356-30, Bill 357-30, and Bill 389-30. Alcohol abuse and underage drinking is prominent among the people of Guam, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Guam has a higher heavy drinking rate and binge-drinking rate than that of the United States. As advocates for drug and alcohol free lifestyles we feel that these bills will help reduce many of the issues Guam has today with alcohol consumption. Bill 356-30 deals with reducing the amount of hours alcohol can be sold. This bill will reduce the overall use of alcohol on Guam. Bill 357-30 will strengthen the penalties to those who sell alcohol before or after legal hours. This bill will make alcohol vendors think twice before they break the law to make a quick buck. Bill 389-30 will increase the minimum legal drinking age from 18 to 21 on Guam. This bill will reduce the number of

motor vehicle accidents, which is the leading cause of death among teenagers, on Guam. All of these measures will help better Guam overall. They will help make Guam a better place to live. For these reasons we thank Vice Speaker B.J. Cruz for bringing up these bills and for you committee members for taking the time out to address them. We hope that you will take into consideration what we have said here today.

Audrey Topasna: Good morning. My name is Audrey Topasna. I am the Underage Drinking Prevention coordinator of Guam's PEACE Project Strategic Prevention Framework Incentive Grant. And I'm here today in support of Bill 389-30, as well as Bill 357 and 356. These bills support the efforts of reducing alcohol abuse and underage drinking prevention, of which is a major public health issue on our island.

Taken from the Guam Substance Abuse Epi-Profile, it indicates that heavy drinking and binge drinking are significantly higher among adults on Guam as compared to the U.S., of which both are predominantly reported by young adults aged 18 to 34. Youth on Guam reported drinking as early as 13 years old. Thirty-six percent of high school students are current drinkers and nineteen percent engage in binge drinking. Alcohol directly contributes to liver cirrhosis, which is the ninth leading cause of death on Guam. Alcohol related cancers account for three of the top five causes of cancer deaths on Guam. Forty-four percent of fatalities on Guam were alcohol related. One hundred and seventy-six DUI arrests involved individuals under the age of twenty-five. Thirty percent of suicides are associated with the use of alcohol, with an average of one suicide death occurring every two weeks on our island.

In addition, research shows that the brain continues to develop throughout adolescence and well into young adulthood. Early alcohol use may have long-lasting consequences. People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared with those who have their first drink at age 20 or older.

To reduce alcohol abuse and prevent underage drinking requires having individual-level and environmental-level interventions. Individual-level interventions include family- and school-based programs. Environment-level interventions include raising the price of alcohol, enacting zero-tolerance laws, stepping up enforcement of laws, and increasing the minimum legal drinking age.

Our island has dealt with far too many alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, family violence, cancer, and suicides. We must improve on Guam's environmental interventions. The passing of the three bills, 356, 357, as well as 389, will be a significant environmental impact towards having a healthier and safer community.

I thank you, Senator Pangelinan, as well as B.J. Cruz and the other committee members here present today for taking the necessary steps needed to improve our community's health and safety issues. Thank you.

## Panel Comments and Questions

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you and si Yu'us ma'ase to all of you. Sen. Cruz? Any other members? I just want to thank especially Christine. Thank you. The next panel that I will call is I have Peter Cruz, April Aguon, Don. Don, are you presenting?

Don Sabang: Yes.

Chairman pangelinan: Peter Cruz signed up, had written testimony; is in favor. April Aguon also has written testimony and indicated she's in favor. And we have Kok Lim. Were you going to present oral testimony? Yes? Yes, come forward please. Emmanuel Espir- is it Espiritu? Espino. All right. Denisha Sulio? Is Denisha going to be testifying? Okay. All right. We'll begin then. Please begin in the order that you were called. So, Don, we'll have you begin.

Don Sabang: Good morning, Senators. My name is Don P. Sabang; I am the supervisor of the Drug and Alcohol Branch, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. I am here this morning to testify in support of Bill 389, to increase the minimum legal drinking age of Guam to 21 years of age.

The Drug and Alcohol Branch of the Guam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse support increasing the minimum drinking age on Guam from 18 to 21 years due to the following argument: The earlier a person begins alcohol use, the greater the chances are of that person becoming an alcoholic later in life, suffering negative physical withdrawal symptoms, and harming his/her brain during its development. Secondly, abnormal detoxification process reduces levels of dopamine. High levels of alcohol in the brain, when combined with dopamine, result in a new chemical called Tetrahydroisoquinoline. This is the ideology of alcoholism as a disease. When one drinks alcohol, it mixes with a chemical in your body called acid aldehyde and it changes to acetic acid and it comes out of your body either H<sub>2</sub>O or CO<sub>2</sub>. Your body is able to process alcohol at about .02 percent per hour. However, when one drinks large amounts of alcohol, it goes into an abnormal detoxification process. Instead of coming out of your body H<sub>2</sub>O or CO<sub>2</sub>, it mixes with a neurotransmitter called dopamine and the result of that, it creates a new chemical in your brain called Tetrahydroisoquinoline. The increase of THIQ in your brain reduces the dopamine level.

When the dopamine level is reduced, it increases high risk for depression and suicide. So here, I'd like to present some stats to continue my argument. In FY2006, we received 758 individuals in treatment and out of that number, 141 were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. In FY 2007, 965 individuals were served. Out of that number, 210 were diagnosed with dependence. In FY 2008, 1199 individuals showed up in treatment. Out of that number, 255 were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. In a needs assessment study that was done by Dr. Workman in 2007, completed by Dr. Annette David, it showed that in 2007, 6000 individuals were in need of treatment. But in that same fiscal year, only 965 showed up in treatment, telling me that only sixteen percent showed up for help through the door of Mental Health, as well as its providers. So sixteen percent out of 6000 only came to treatment and we're looking at every year we have approximately over 200 people diagnosed with dependence.

Many of which these individuals have children, which I want to point to another study conducted by Dr. Mark Shuckett; he's the chairperson of the Committee for the Substance Related Disorders of the DSM-IV. It is the Diagnostic Statistical Manual produced by the American Psychiatric Association. He has thirty years experience of conducting research on alcohol abuse and alcohol dependence and his results concluded that children of alcoholics are three to four times at high risk of becoming dependent, because of the genetic disposition THIQ. And so how I look at this, this morning is that young people who start early in drinking, and if they are children of alcoholics, such as myself, they would have a higher chance of becoming depressed and maybe even committing suicide. We all know that our stats of suicide is climbing every year and I believe, in my experience working over twelve years for the Drug and Alcohol Branch, I believe a significant percent is attributed to alcohol use, in which many of them started drinking at a very young age. The high number of children with alcoholic parents living on Guam suggests that the earlier they begin drinking, the sooner they will suffer the consequence of dependence, again: depression and even suicide. Again I support increasing the minimum legal drinking age on Guam to age 21. Thank you.

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you very much, Don. Mr. Lim?

Kok Lim: I am Kok Lim, CEO Administrator of the Guam SDA Clinic. I will be sharing with you a letter written by Dr. Nathaniel Berg with the Guam Radiology Consultants. This letter is addressed to Senator Cruz and the members of the Legislature. I have previously written my opinion regarding the need to raise the minimum legal drinking age on Guam to 21 years. I have enclosed a copy of this previously published letter of support. It is important that we always consider the totality of the evidence available when making what truly amounts to a change in our laws based upon concerns for public health and safety. Reviewing one or two strongly worded articles or submission of publications that support a specific previously existing conclusion does not well serve our community. Nor does a failure to review data as it appears in the scientific literature. It is hoped that we will look at as much scientifically based research as we can before we reach a conclusion. Yes, my personal experience tells me that legal availability of alcohol for those under age 21 is associated with significant risks to the individual, their families, and our community. Few enter the review of this topic without some sort of opinion. However, when asked to consider writing a letter of support for Bill 389-30, I followed the principles taught to all of us in our professional schooling and thoroughly reviewed the scientific data again. I specifically sought any new data, or data that I might have previous been unaware of pointing toward more effective alternative methods of reducing the untoward impacts of a legal drinking age below 21 years.

Are their effective alternatives to restricting access for 18 to 20-year-old members of our community of Guam (and our visitors) to a currently legal substance? There is a large body of evidence available for review. The data collected and analyzed is of varying vintage. Some of the newer studies I reviewed have clearly flawed statistical analysis, while others from forty years ago well evaluate the impact of the change of a drinking age on specific public health issues, e.g. fatal and nonfatal automobile accidents. Perhaps the most interesting and sound data are from states where the legal drinking age was lowered from 21 years to 18 years and then later reversed. Between 1970 to 1975, 29 states lowered their minimum legal drinking age

from 21 to 18, 19, or 20. The enactment of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 prompted all of these states to raise their legal age for purchase or public possession of alcohol to 21 or risk losing millions in federal highway funds. Specific periods can thus be isolated, thus collected and properly assessed. I attended high school and university in Massachusetts. During my high school years, the minimum legal drinking age was 18 and alcohol was rather readily available to anyone in high school as older classmates could readily supply it. Access became extremely difficult for high school students when the drinking age was raised to 21. That was my experience. But did this amount to a significant change in the health and well being of the community? That is far more important than what I personally observed. I've attached several studies that address the issue in two states that experienced the lowered drinking ages, including one focused on Massachusetts and the U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's assessment of the impact returning the legal drinking to that on fatal accidents in the United States. NHTSA estimates nearly age-21 laws have prevented 25,000 teen traffic deaths.

The percentage of teen drivers killed in traffic crashes with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit has dropped from 56 percent in 1982 to 23 percent in 2005. Although the data is rather compelling, it was not enough by itself for me to arrive at a final conclusion. Further review of the data available was required. The Centers for Disease Control has, as part of its mission has reviewed a large portion of the research to date. They have well presented a summary of the findings. I've listed the citations at the end of this letter. The public health problems of concern: Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to more than 4600 deaths among underage youth, that is, persons less than 21 years of age, in the United States each year. Underage drinking is strongly associated with many health and social problems among youth including alcohol-impaired driving, physical fighting, poor school performance, sexual activity, and smoking. Most underage youth who drink do so to the point of intoxication, that is, they binge drink (defined as having five or more drinks in a row) typically on multiple occasions. Current drinking during the previous month among persons aged 18 to 20 years declined significantly from 59 percent in 1985 to 40 percent in 1991, coincident with states adopting an age 21 minimum legal drinking age, but increased to 47 percent by 1999. The Relationship Between Youth and Adult Drinking: Binge drinking by adults is a strong predictor of binge drinking by college students living in the same state. There are approximately 1.5 billion episodes of binge drinking among persons aged 18 years or older in the United States annually, most of which involve adults age 26 years and older. More than half of all active duty military personnel report binge drinking in the past month and young adult service members exposed to combat are at significantly greater risk of binge drinking than older service members. More than ninety percent of adult binge drinkers are not alcohol dependent. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommends implementing and maintaining an age-21 minimum legal drinking age based on strong evidence of effectiveness, including a median sixteen percent decline in motor vehicle crashes among underage youth in states that increased the legal drinking age to 21 years. The Task Force on Community Preventive Services also recommends enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors to reduce such sales. Age 21 MLDA laws result in lower levels of alcohol consumption among young adults aged 21 years and older as well as those less than age 21 years. States with more stringent alcohol control policies tend to have lower adult and college binge drinking rates. I examined numerous other sources of information from well-designed

evaluation of data. This led to my arriving at the same conclusion I reached prior to writing my letter endorsing raising the minimum legal drinking age on Guam to 21 years.

It is not possible in this letter for me to list all of the articles I reviewed. The CDC well written assessment of most of the studies and their conclusion are essentially identical to those I reached. They serve as an excellent explanation as to how I finally came to my conclusion. In addition to the age 21 minimum legal drinking age, the CDC has concluded that the body of scientific evidence does support other effective strategies for preventing underage drinking including increasing alcohol excise taxes and limiting alcohol outlet density. Youth exposure to alcohol marketing also is effective. I agree with their conclusions regarding these additional possible steps to take. Perhaps these additional measures can be addressed after we as a community take what is clearly and scientifically supported as the most effective method addressing the negative public health impact of maintaining a minimum legal drinking age of 18. That one step, which I strongly encourage all members of the legislature to support, is voting to pass bill 389-30. I thank you for taking the time to read my opinion and apologize for not being available during the hearing as I am currently off island.

Chairman Pangelinan: Thank you very much, Mr. Lim. Mr. Espino?

Emmanuel Espino: Good morning Senators thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present. My name is Emmanuel Espino and I am with Palm Pacific Abundant Ministries. We are a nonprofit organization. We have a —we are a coalition made up of members from different sectors of the community, private businesses, non profit organizations, government agencies, religious groups, some are educators, and others are in the medical field. We are all proud to support an alcohol and drug free Guam. Our coalition volunteers are in the prevention of alcohol and substance abuse. I understand these changes in the law are not the solution to all the problems related to alcoholism and the family violence that comes out from alcohol abuse and the fatalities that we have all heard about this morning. Because you know I stand on the other side, I was an abuser of alcohol and drugs in my younger years. It was easily accessible to me.

Raising the age to the age of twenty-one (21) would have made it much more difficult for my older friends to pass it onto me. With the stiffer penalties behind it we would have thought twice if not three times before passing on the substance to the younger peers. I now sit as the Programs Director for our organization. We are in the prevention side of this. We are trying to reach our middle schoolers, our high schoolers to educate them and make them aware of the dangers of the substance abuse and alcohol abuse. With the passage of this bill 389-30 there has to be also a much stiffer penalty that is in the bill. I agree with the doctor earlier and the other thing that I thought of was that we have the laws but do we have the will as a community to enforce this bill. We understand that there are agencies that are responsible for this – where you get your ABC license – but do they have enough manpower to go and check all these establishments to see that these laws that we have or God willing that this bill pushes through do have the manpower, do have the willingness to carry it out.

A law on the books means nothing if there is no enforcement – like I said, the bill will not change all the problems, but I think it is a greater issue – it's a heart issue - because with my

personnel experiences was that when I became a Christian – when I gave my life to god that is when my appetite for alcohol and substance abuse changed. I no longer desire the things I used to desire so now in my life I use it to try and affect others so that they do not have to fall into the same trap that I fell into. So I ask your help in helping us on the frontline trying to reach others and children and teens. And like I said, this bill will not solve all our problems but it is certainly in the right direction of where Guam needs to go and we are spending thousands if not in the millions every year to try to resolve the problems and we all have heard the statistics this morning on what the affect of alcohol is. Do we need anymore? I just sit here before you just wanting to let you know what we do on our part as far as a coalition trying to reach our children to not fall into the trap of alcoholism and substance abuse. God forbid that they might end up behind the wheel and kill somebody at the age of 18 or 19. I seek your support and I thank you for the opportunity this morning.

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you. Miss Sulio.

Denisha Sulio: [Submitted written testimony, attached]

#### **Panel Comments and Question.**

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you very much. Anybody have any questions of the panel? Senator Cruz?

Senator Cruz: Just before all the young people go and especially since you were the last speaker at age sixteen. I just want to thank all of the young people for coming today. I know the professionals would have come out but for the young people to come and say they are in favor of denying themselves this opportunity to drink between the age of eighteen and twenty-one I think shows a lot of maturity and I want to thank them I want to especially thank their teachers and their mentors who have been able to have them understand you can make more responsible decisions when you are a little bit older and having a sixteen-year-old come and testify and seeing Miss Smith come was really heart-wrenching and I want to thank all the people for coming to help support these three bills.

Liberty Sulio: Good morning my name is Liberty Sulio and I am fourteen. I am representing Sanctuary. In my opinion, I support raising the drinking age from eighteen to twenty-one. [Read written testimony, attached]

One of the reasons that I think they should pass the bill is because crime and death rates involving alcohol usage will definitely decrease. According to Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile, alcohol contributes to liver cirrhosis, which is the ninth leading cause of death on Guam. Another reason I support this bill is because alcohol abuse has been involved in criminal arrests, vehicle crashes, and violent crimes including family violence and suicide. Research shows that in 2007 it was reported that 44% of fatalities were alcohol related. Therefore, if this bill was to be passed it would ensure the safety of Guam's people just a little more.

Stephanie Guzman, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist Sanctuary Inc. Submitted written testimony. [see attached]

Cecilia Javier, Department of Public Works Office of Highway Safety. Submitted written testimony on behalf of DPW Director Andrew S. Leon Guerrero. [see attached]

Michael Robinson MD, Seventh Day Adventist Clinic, read written testimony on behalf of Dr. Lee Meadows MD and submitted written testimony on his own behalf. [see both testimonies attached]

### **Panel Comments and Questions**

Senator Tom Ada: To the representative from the Office of Highway Safety, your office would play a very important roll when this bill gets passed and I am optimistic that it will pass. Your office certainly gets Federal Grants that will be able to promote the public awareness of the drinking age. Does your office have adequate funding to do that?

Cecilia Javier, Department of Public Works Office of Highway Safety. If this bill passes it will open a window for us to apply for a Federal Grant under the National Highway Safety Administration - 23 USC 410 - Sec. 410. Alcohol-impaired driving countermeasures—it has four tiers that we need to qualify under, but we are going to push for it and hopefully when we do get the money after the passing of this law we will be out there aggressively to curb underage drinking through education.

Seth Ferrell, Surgery Supervisor at Seventh Day Adventist Clinic. Thank you, Senators. My name is Seth Ferrel. I am the surgery suite supervisor at SDA clinic. I've been a nurse for 12 years. I've worked in trauma ER, and I've dealt with many DUIs, patients in pain, drunk-driving accidents, people involved in alcohol very much. And it's hurt me very much as I've dealt with that. Also, I've worked in trauma ICU, and taking care of patients that have been in traumatic accidents because of drunk drivers over a longer period of time and its hurt me very much. I'm also a chaplain with the Guam Police Department and my job is to break the news of death, cushioning, as I present it to the families. And death, dying, suffering on Guam is very dear to my heart. And I have a letter here today from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, from the national president. I would like to read that.

Mr. Ferrell read the letter from Mother Against Drunk Driving. [see attached]

Ms. Bernadette Santos: Good morning, Senators. My name is Bernadette Santos. I'm a registered nurse, a mother, and the president of the Guam Nurses Association. I also will be providing testimony for Dr. Kevin Hitosis this morning. As a mother, in listening to the statistics, I've got three children who will be in middle school next year. I'm a protective mother, I would say. I would be more rest assured or I would be more inclined to let my children go out once they are in high school knowing that there may be a decrease in exposure to alcohol. At some point in time, every parent will have to decide; "Yes, I will let my child hang out with their high school friends." If I know that they may have difficulty obtaining alcohol I'd be, again, more inclined to let them out. As the president of the Guam Nurses

Association, I'm sure if Ms. Tina Blas were on island, she would provide testimony for GNA. We did submit written testimony for GNA in support of the bill and list of things. I would like to now read the testimony of Dr. Kevin Hitosis.

Ms. Santos read Dr. Hitosis' testimony in favor of the bill. [see attached]

Ms. Cely Magrobang, GMHA Nursing Supervisor.

My name is Cely Mangrobang. Good morning dear Senators. I am a nurse for 48 years; maybe you are young, senators; you are not yet born when I was a nurse. I work as a Supervisor at the Guam Memorial Hospital for the last 33 years. I also represent the Guam Nightingale Lions Club here on Guam who consists of 72 members; doctors and nurses who favor Bill 389-30.

I have seen first hand horrible affects of alcohol in Guam, especially in the younger generations that we see them every day in the emergency room. Nurses at the hospital, we have to be seeing these youth from the emergency room to the pediatric ward wherein they get drunk, they get into accidents, and they get into severe fights. Some are fatal, some with severe disability affects. Almost major of these cases are due to getting drunk from early drinking alcohol. Why is Guam so behind in passing the law of minimum drinking? When are the lawmakers going to realize that the 21 Law saves lives, and especially saves the youth. By passing the drinking age to 21, you can help keep our youth healthy in their mind and bodies. Just look at Guam high school drop out rates; we don't have to say the percentages - it's the highest in the country. Look at the teenage pregnancy rates and the domestic violence and the majority of these are associated with alcohol. It's time that we raise the drinking age to 21. Please listen to us; healthcare givers, nurses and doctors. On Guam, 18,19, 20 year old are the highest number of visits to our hospital emergency rooms for alcohol abuse over the last decade. And it is because on Guam, the kids drink so early that we have so many older adults with liver diseases, cancer and early death. Kids also cost our hospital million of dollars in health care cost. Not to mention destruction of young lives.

I interviewed one 8-year old that was admitted into Pediatrics and I said, "Why is your alcohol level at this age and when did you start drinking? He says, "My Dad always ask me to go and get a beer inside the refrigerator every time he comes home". So he opens the beer, takes a sip and gives it to the father. So, this is how he had the habit just by adding, adding every day and the tolerance becomes so high.

Senators, I took my time out today to come and sit before you to testify in support of raising the drinking age. Please listen to us - doctors and nurses who takes care of these patients in the hospital. Please pass Bill 389; there is no time to waste and to wait. Thank you.

#### **Panel Comments and Question:**

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you very much, Cely. Dr. Akimoto, I hope you don't mind I checked you in support. Make sure the mic is on. If the light is on it's on.

Dr. Vince Akimoto: Thank you very much senator. This public hearing is so gratifying for many of us in the healthcare field. We've worked hard with public citizens groups who were trying to get this issue to the attention to the lawmakers. In the past, we've gone so as to collect signatures so that this could be on a public referendum and twice the people of Guam had a chance to vote for it. For us to finally have a public hearing with our senators is a real blessing. The discussion, the issues that are raised, the statistics, and the passion that people can hopefully see that goes with wanting to change this law where 18-year-olds who are teenagers and they hang out with our children. I'm the father of six kids who will be teenagers when the build-up comes and (with) the impact of alcohol and drugs on our island, there will be no exaggeration as to how will it will be difficult it will be to raise families and children in this environment if we have a law that is so lax in allowing access to people, particularly to young soldiers who are learning very well how to kill.

They do not have access to this type of drug so readily in Milwaukee, St. Louis, or Boston. When they come to Guam, where America's day begins, where east meets west, they may that this is an environment that is conducive to letting their hair down and engaging in behaviors that may hurt other people, not because they want to, and lord knows their commanders will not want them to. So, the military, in its wisdom, is listening to the people of Okinawa who are saying that these American soldiers have brought so much damage in that community that they want them out, so let them come to Guam. Are we going to let the door so be wide open to types of social problems that the Okinawans are warning us about by leaving this one issue outstanding? I think not. This Legislature shows courage and wisdom in finally hearing this in public hearing and hearing from healthcare providers who are in the clinics, in the emergency rooms, the substance abuse agencies. We are failing to deal with the substance abuse services problems that we have before us now. Our mental health department is in federal receivership. Our substance abuse programs are lacking resources. The drinking age problem really is about education and about dealing with the consequence that some can't handle their drink, and some people are going to get into big trouble with substance abuse. If we can at least push the time out for them to have access to this material until they're 21, where some people believes their brains are going to be a lot more mature, and if somebody has a problem with an 18 year old carrying a gun and a beer in the other hand, well, go to Boston because they can't carry gun and a beer in the same hand.

If you want to be a soldier in the United States it's not patriotic to shoot people when you're drunk, so with this idea that we are somehow humiliating soldiers, American soldiers, by raising the drinking age, we're just being American. It is not Chamorro to drink Budweiser; it is not Chamorro to drink Miller. There is no indigenous right that speaks to alcohol access at 18. I am not mad, I am just happy. We're dealing with this issue finally after it was robbed from the electorate in an election where the Guam Election Commission admitted they had committed errors that prevented the people from speaking. This Legislature finally is listening to its people and let it be known that these senators who are sitting before us and particularly my uncle, senator B.J. Cruz, of great courage, has brought this issue, this very controversial issue to the floor. We really thank you for listening to and I hope that all of you will vote yes on this important legislation. If you do, then we'll just have to convince, I think, two more people to do so and this will pass.

And when it passes I'm sure the acting Governor Mike Cruz will sign it quickly and we will then be just like the rest of America and have a drinking age of 21 years age and that goes along with public education campaigns to teach people how to drink to prudently and hopefully, working with the police department, if we do arrest you because your drunken and driving, the point is not incarceration, but to rehabilitate. We're going to be dealing with this all along the way, but help us be more prudent healthcare providers by allowing us to advise you that raising the drinking age is the right thing to do.

Thank you very much.

#### **Panel Comments and Question:**

Chairman Pangelinan: Thank you very much, Dr. Akimoto. Any comments from the panel? If none, we'd like to dismiss the panel. That concludes the list of individuals who have signed up to testify on bill 389 and I want to thank each and everyone of you for your presence this morning and we will proceed then with the other matters before this committee in the public hearing. If I could just make another adjustment in the schedule; since some of the people that are here may have wished to testify on bill number 356 or 357, I would like to go ahead and conclude receiving testimony in there. I know I saw some individuals who wanted to testify on (356 & 357), so I'm going to go ahead and call 356 for public testimony at this time.

I have Mr. Patrick Nelson from the Guam Association of Club Executives submitted written testimony in opposition. I have Offing Jackson who signed indicating an oral testimony. I have the Youth for Youth group that indicated they have written and oral testimony in support of 356. Mr. Emmanuel Espino also indicated his support for bill 356. April Aguon, Aubrey Topasna, ...yes, yes..., so any of these individuals who wish to provide testimony that I called your name please come forward. I also have Linda Salas who indicated support. Barbara Benavente has submitted written testimony. Maria Teresa, indicated, submitted written testimony, indicating support. We'll go ahead then and you will be the only one to make the oral presentation (on) 356. Before we start I just want to read the title of the bill. Usually we give the author the opportunity to make a statement, but he's deferred to that and its relative to

reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages, so Audrey, Dr. Shieh, you wish to provide testimony also?

Dr. Shieh: Yeah, go ahead.

Audrey Topasna: I actually wanted to just state that most of us here today, we actually did our letters, our written testimonies, and of course the one's we did oral testimony...we actually prepared our letters for all three bills that address the alcohol issued which are 356, 357 and 389. So we would be basically be reading the same testimony, so I guess I'm going to make a request. Could we just, for the other two, we're just go ahead and resubmit the written.

Pangelinan: Yes, we will indicate and submit and append that to all three bills, so the record will reflect that you provided testimony on all three bills.

Audrey Topasna: Ok. That will just be based on my last testimony.

Dr. Shieh: Mr. Chairman, thank you for reminding us about the two other bills and I apologize for myself as well. When I discussed the issue of alcohol effects along with health care providers and nurses, our testimony was geared toward the three bills because of the relationship of the alcohol effects. So if you would to admit that there is the same support in favor in our testimony, written and oral in order to support we've just (unintelligible) three bills. Additionally, I would also add a single word into the bill 389 and the word is consumption and I would request you add that particular word "consumption possession when purchasing". Those are very important three words that need to be in there. And I would appreciate it as well, Mr. Chairman, that you would deliberate within in the committee and at the next legislature gathering, and hopefully very soon, that you bring this bill out for a vote. Like I said before, there's really no conflict of interest if you vote "yes." If you vote "no" and you walk away from it, then there is a conflict of interest. I hope you get this passed as quick as possible. It will help us doctors help the hospital and make the entire Guam a better place to live. Thank you.

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you very much, Dr. Shieh. Senator Taitague, did you have any questions or comments.

Sen. Taitague: I'm glad I have the opportunity to have you up front, because I pretty sure you are well-versed in anything related to the drinking age and raising it, which, by the way you know, I've always supported. And I will not beat around the bush but when I was asked during the last election would I support raising the drinking age, I said absolutely.

Dr. Shieh: Thank you.

Sen. Taitague: The question I have though with regards to the military, since you are well versed on this, is if you are in the military and you're on base, we know that the military cannot purchase alcohol or consume alcohol at the age of 21. Now when they leave the base, and they go to a bar, that enlisted individual, is he allowed to drink at their 18, below the age of

(sic)...say they are 18, 19, and 20, is he allowed to drink off-base according to military regulations?

Dr. Shieh: Right. Currently, the military raised the drinking age to meet the national standards. It's good. When they leave the base, they can drink at establish (sic) because the Guam law is...there is a big disparity. We're setting a double standard, so we need to support our admirals and our generals on both military bases in raising the drinking age to be consistent. In addition, I think with the military buildup, I think that we really have to look at what's going on here because if we have military here and we're setting up double standards, what kind of a message are sending out to our military troops and to the community in general. So right now, to answer their question, yes, I believe they can.

Only problem with that, is that, for example, when our last Marines came here for training, we had two broken jaws, right away from Tumon. It was in GMH. So things like that do occur

when they go out for liberty. So let me share with you, this is the outcome and this was faxed to me regarding Marines that were here for training several years ago. And this is effectively immediate, the Colonel of the Marines of the current exercises happening island wide has issued a standing orders that all marines must be 21 years of age to consume alcoholic beverage. Cashiers must card all Marine IDs at the point of purchase.

Look for the Marine Corps emblem and eagle, globe and anchor. The born on date must read February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1985. So we have a Marine Commander and Chief that is very concerned regarding the troop readiness so that's another good argument that we need to ensure that we raise the drinking age. And you weren't here when I gave the testimony, but I encourage to look back in the first few hours for the senator who was not here, Speaker Won Pat, and listen to Dr. Geslani and myself and I think my testimony this time around is a little different but it's all the same. I think we really want to make Guam a better place for all of us –for our families, for you – and let's prosper together by raising the drinking age, I think we will.

Sen. Taitague: Thank you, Dr. Shieh. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman pangelinan: Thank you very much, Senator. That would then conclude the receipt of testimony on Bill 357 and 356, as well. And we will proceed then with Bill No. 306.

**III. FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION.** The Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land hereby reports out Bill No. 356-30 (COR).

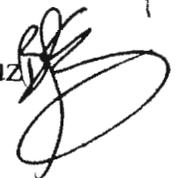
I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2010 (Second) Regular Session

Bill No. 356-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz

356-30  
COR



**AN ACT TO AMEND §3414 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 3,  
TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE  
TO REDUCING HOURS OF SALE FOR ALCOHOLIC  
BEVERAGES.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

**Section 1.** Subsection § 3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11, Guam Code  
Annotated is hereby *amended* to read:

**“§ 3414. Hours of Sale. On-Sale Premises.**

An on-sale licensee shall not sell or serve any person any alcoholic beverages ~~after~~  
between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., ~~except that preceding New Year's~~  
~~Day, the selling time shall be 2:00 a.m., on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays the~~  
~~selling time shall be 4:00 a.m.~~ provided, however, that all alcoholic beverages must  
be consumed within 15 minutes of the time permitted for the sale thereof and  
premise(s) shall be closed thereafter. ~~A licensee may begin selling or serving~~  
~~alcoholic beverages at 8:00 a.m., Monday through Sunday, inclusive.”~~



Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
 THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
 Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, TAXATION, BANKING, INSURANCE, RETIREMENT AND LAND  
 PUBLIC HEARING  
 Wednesday, June 9, 2010  
 BILL NO. 356-30 (COR)  
 SIGN UP SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	WRITTEN	ORAL	SUPPORT Yes No
Patrick Nelson Guam Assoc. of Club Owners				X		No
Ofing Jackson Baron Mfhas, Daniel Osborne, Sean Ruppky, Marilyn Serrano (Clara Ferrer-Vicent)				✓	✓	Yes
Peter Cruz				✓		Yes

*Emmanuel T. Espino*

✓ ✓ Yes

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Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
 THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE  
 Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, TAXATION, BANKING, INSURANCE, RETIREMENT AND LAND  
 PUBLIC HEARING  
 Wednesday, June 9, 2010  
 BILL NO. 356-30 (COR)  
 SIGN UP SHEET

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	EMAIL	WRITTEN	ORAL	SUPPORT Yes No
April Aguan				✓		Yes
Audrey Topasna				✓	✓	Yes
Linda Salas		477 2546	Guam.g4@medd.org			Yes
BARBARA S.N. BENVENITE	DR. W. ANN ANTONIONE, DEEDO, GUAM	488-6228		X		Yes

~~MARIA TERESA LOZADA~~ XGA, GUAM 653-2090  
~~Francine Sullivan~~ Tamuning 483-6600 pramile@guam.net X

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The National Center on  
Addiction and Substance Abuse  
at Columbia University

June 10, 2010

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New York, NY 10017-6706

phone 212 841 5200  
fax 212 956 8020  
www.casacolumbia.org

**Senators of the 30th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance and Land**

Dear Senators:

*Board of Directors*

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William H. Foster, Ph.D.  
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Michael I. Roth  
Michael P. Schulhof  
Louis W. Sullivan, M.D.  
John J. Sweeney  
Clyde C. Tuggle

I am writing in support of proposed legislation, Bill No. 389-30, to increase the minimum legal drinking age in Guam to 21 years of age.

Since 1984, the national minimum legal drinking age in the United States has been 21. This law and its impact have been studied extensively; it is credited with saving more than 800 lives annually among 18 - 20 year olds linked to alcohol involved highway traffic accidents. The minimum legal drinking age of 21 also has been credited with lower rates of alcohol consumption and fewer alcohol related problems among 18 - 20 year olds.

Drinking by those under the age of 21 threatens public health and safety and increases the risk of the disease of addiction. Alcohol use among those under age 21 is responsible for demonstrably negative consequences including unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, date rape, accidents, homicides, suicides and addiction. One of the most effective strategies for reducing alcohol related problems is the implementation of a 21 year old minimum legal drinking age.

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James E. Burke (1992-1997)  
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Jamie Dimon (1995-2009)  
Mary Fisher (1996-2005)  
Betty Ford (1992-1998)  
Douglas A. Fraser (1992-2003)  
Barbara C. Jordan (1992-1996)  
Leo Kelmenson (1998-2006)  
Donald R. Keough (1992-2010)  
LaSalle Leffall (1992-2001)  
Nancy Reagan (1995-2000)  
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George Rupp (1993-2002)  
Michael I. Sovern (1992-1993)  
Frank G. Wells (1992-1994)  
Michael A. Wiener (1997-2009)

Addiction is a disease of the brain affecting both structure and function in the areas responsible for judgment, impulse control and decision making. In most cases, these areas are not fully mature until an individual is in his or her mid-20s; exposure to addictive substances during this developmental period has a more pronounced effect than on a fully developed brain. In fact, an individual who begins drinking before the age of 15 is four times likelier to become an alcoholic than if that individual had waited until age 21 or later.



The alcohol industry strongly opposes raising the legal drinking age since it would understandably affect their bottom line. Similar to the tobacco industry, the alcohol industry has long observed that the best way to get a lifetime heavy user is to start them early. In fact, the combination of underage and adult excessive drinking that in most cases stems from underage use amounts to between 37.5 percent and 48.8 percent of consumer expenditures for alcohol. (See attached article from the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*) The economic interest of the alcohol industry represents a profound conflict of interest with the public health.

In sum, the evidence clearly shows that drinking among young people is a public health problem--that it threatens public safety and increases the risk of addiction, a costly medical problem. It has long been a governmental responsibility to protect the public health and to promote health outcomes. I urge the Guam legislature to recognize these facts and raise the legal drinking age in Guam to 21.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

William H. Foster, PhD  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachment

## Alcohol's Effects on the Brain

Adolescents and young adults, including the ages of 18-21 are times when the brain is undergoing significant, permanent changes that lead to the ability to practice responsible adult behaviors and make mature decisions and assist in the realization of individual's dreams and goals. The introduction of alcohol at this critical time of brain development can cause lasting, irreversible damage to the physical structure of the brain.

The physical structure of the brain is like a computer. As an individual grows, the brain continually develops. At certain times this development can be likened to a computer upgrade-getting a newer computer that can do things better and faster and also allows the person to accomplish new feats they could not previously achieve. This is called *Brain Plasticity*. One of these times is the period lasting from age 15 to age 21. The introduction of alcohol interferes with the brain's ability to rewire itself to accomplish this upgrade. This upgrade affects two major areas of the brain.

The first area is the prefrontal cortex. This area of the brain is what allows people to exercise impulse-control and to apply mature thinking, judgment and reasoning to situations. Alcohol impairs this ability. In the short term this can lead to risky behavior such as drunk driving, reckless behavior, and unwanted sexual behaviors. In the long run it can interfere with personality development and obstructs the capacity to develop these abilities. I want to draw your attention to figure 1. This SPECT image shows the significant damage that can be done at age 21 even when a person starts drinking at age 18. This damage can be irreversible.

The second area affected is the hippocampus. This is the area of the brain that allows learning to occur and memories to be formed. This can be likened to the storage capacity of a computer. As this area of the brain is most affected by alcohol, it is important to understand the significance. Even short-term or moderate drinking during this time frame prior to age 21 can cause significant impairment. The longer a person drinks before the hippocampus is fully developed at around age 20 the more substantial impact it has on the overall size of this memory storage capacity. The altered physical size and maturity of the hippocampus can prevent a person from ever being able to 'catch up' to an adult learning capacity. The American Medical Association warns that those who binge once a week or just increase their drinking from age 18 to 24 continue to be a risk from the adverse effects of alcohol on the brain. This affect

can contribute to problems attaining the goals of young adulthood— healthy relationships, education, employment, and financial independence. And rather than "outgrowing" alcohol use, young abusers are significantly more likely to have drinking problems as adults (AMA, n.d.).

The human brain is also the place where emotions are produced and regulated. This can be likened to computer software. Dopamine is one neurotransmitter or software package that regulate mood and allow the person the ability to feel such things as pleasure and joy in response to activities such as laughing, relationships and activities. In a teen's brain, this chemical is produced in larger amounts as the emotional system is maturing which continues well into the 20's. The use of alcohol during this time can insidiously hijack this system by creating artificially high levels of dopamine. This causes euphoria and pleasure, thus enticing the person to repeat this process. As this process is repeated over and over again, the ability of the brain to produce dopamine naturally is decreased, leaving the person depressed, apathetic, and unmotivated. In order to feel any pleasure, they must drink alcohol. As this emotional system is still not fully regulated at age 18, a person remains much more susceptible to addiction. Those who start drinking before age 15 are 5 times more likely to develop alcoholism than those who start after age 21.

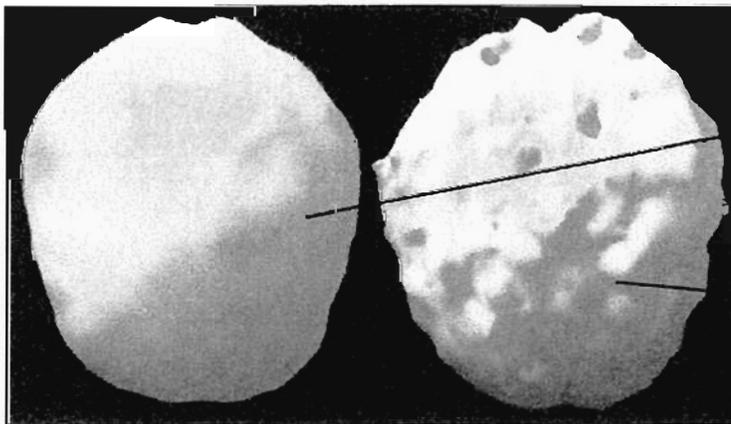
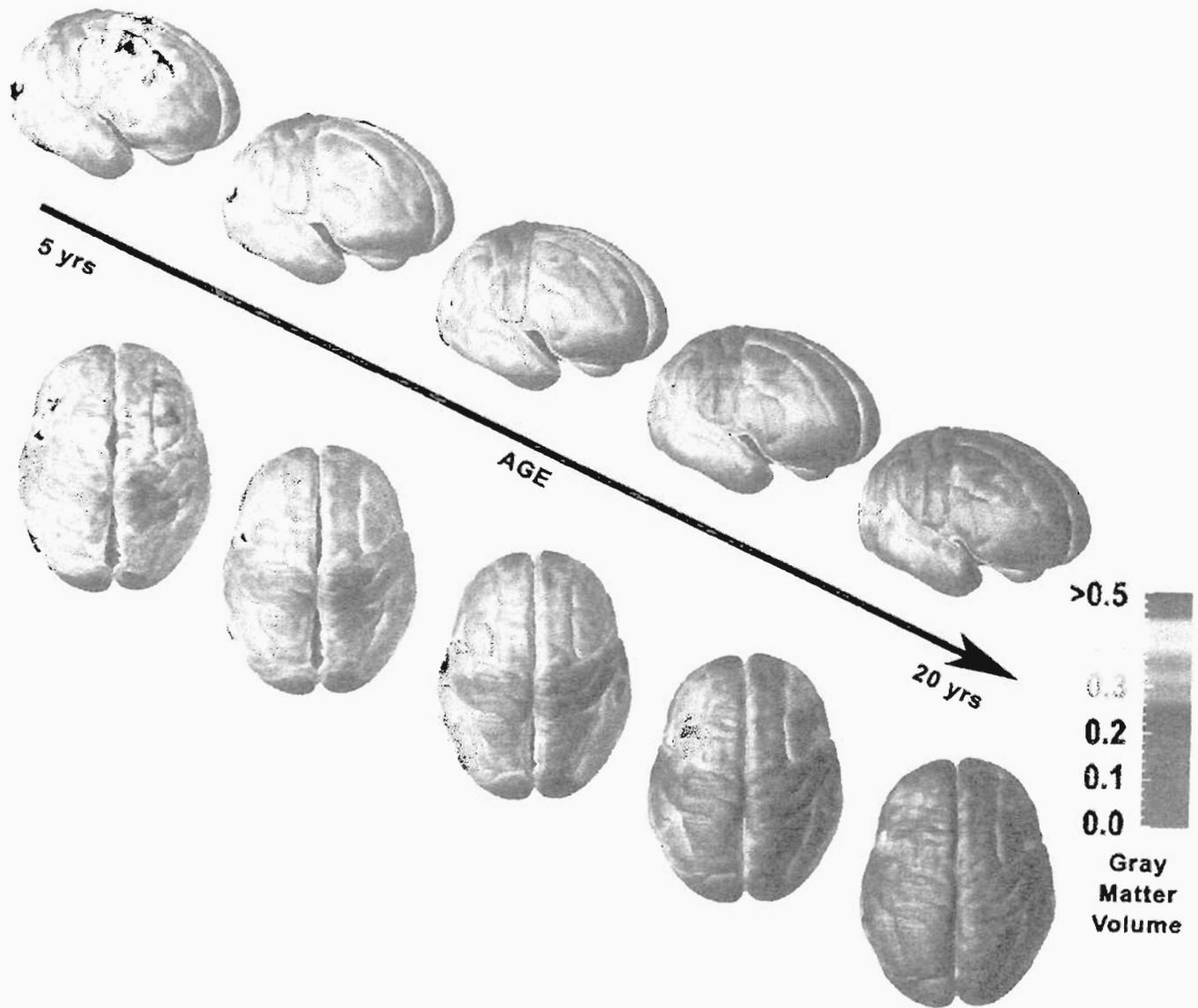
Raising the drinking age to 21 is about saving lives and saving our teens and young adults from a the long lasting effects of consuming alcohol before their brains are fully developed.

## References

Parents Empowered. (n.d.). *Teen brain development and alcohol*. Retrieved on June 8, 2010, from ([http://parentsempowered.org/files/resources/fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://parentsempowered.org/files/resources/fact_sheet.pdf))

Therapy Place. (n.d.) What is dopamine and how is it related to alcohol Retrieved on June 8, 2010 from <http://www.1therapyplace.com/Articles/108/Addictions/what-is-dopamine-and-how-is-it-related-to-alcohol-and-how-do-you-increase-dopamine-levels-.aspx>

American Medical Association. (n.d.). Physician Resources.*Brain Damage Risks*. Retrieved on June 8, 2010 from <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/no-index/physician-resources/9416.shtml>



These S.P.E.C.T. images show activity levels in the brain of a healthy non-drinker (left)...

...and that of a sober 21-year old with a 4 year history of heavy alcohol use (right).

\*The "holes" indicate areas of significantly reduced brain activity

Scans courtesy of Dr. Daniel Amen www.amenclinic.com © 2004, American Clinic Inc. A Medical Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Testimony in Strong Favor of Bill 389-30  
To raise the minimum drinking age on Guam to 21**

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**From: Pramila Sullivan, Mother, Wife, and Teacher**



Members of the legislature,

Thank you for your time.

We are here today because teen drinking is of great concern to everyone.

My name is Pram Sullivan, and I am here to testify in support of MLDA of 21, and honor my late husband, David Sullivan, Assistant Attorney General. I come to you as David's wife, a mother and an educator.

David and I agreed that protecting youth and future generation must begin with legislation. Parents and educators agree that raising Legal Drinking age to 21 is the responsible choice. (The American Medical Association argues in favor of protecting teens from alcohol consumption.)

If this law saves one life, you will be respected by parents, families, professionals and educators.

We understand that, every parent does not have time, opportunity and resources to make informed decisions. Parents agree that drinking alcohol will not support their children to become educated and productive adults.

David and I did extensive research, and speaking with experts, we concluded that drinking alcohol before the age of 21 does not create sharp, and intelligent youth. Medical research proves that drinking at early age, increases the possibility for alcohol dependency. Let us agree that fostering alcohol dependency is not good for Guam.

It is important to raise the legal drinking age to 21 and protect Guam's future. Young adult are unaware of harm alcohol inflicts on them. By the time they realize harm, it is too late.

Finally, One Last Point: let us all agree, that no mother or father here, wants their teen child to be to be in the legal system, or addicted, or hospitalized...because we, members of the legislature, legally endorse and legally permit teen drinking.

**In closing**, let us the applaud The Honorable Senator B J Cruz, attorney, judge and community leader, for submitting this legislation.

**Raymond M. Taniguchi, MD**  
**American Board Certified Neurosurgeon**  
**1380 Lusitana Street Suite 415**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813**

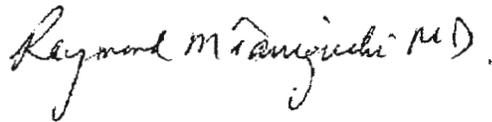
June 4, 2010

Senator BJ Cruz  
c/o Thomas Shieh, MD

Dear Honorable Cruz,

I cannot be in Guam on June 9. However, as a neurosurgeon with 40 years experience in treating serious head and spine injuries, I can attest to the fact that countless lives will be saved by raising the drinking age to age 21. I'm sure you know that Hawaii already has raised the legal drinking age to 21. There is no question that raising the age limit will not only save lives but prevent needless suffering of families and friends of victims who are permanently maimed in accidents attributed to excessive drinking. Guam will do well to follow Hawaii's lead.

Respectfully submitted,



Raymond Taniguchi, M.D.



**J. James Rohack MD, President**

June 4, 2010

Senator Vicente Pangelinan, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations, Taxation,  
Banking, Insurance, Retirement and Land  
324 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 100  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
[senbenp@guam.net](mailto:senbenp@guam.net)

Dear Senator Pangelinan:

The American Medical Association (AMA) is writing to express its support for Bill 389-30, which would amend an existing code by increasing the Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) to 21 years old. Increasing the MLDA in Guam would have a positive effect on alcohol-related accidents and fatalities, and health problems associated with alcohol use among teens. As one of the most studied public health laws in history, the scientific research from more than 50 high-quality studies all found that the 21-law saves lives. Age 21 MLDA laws have reduced traffic fatalities involving drivers 18 to 20 years old by an estimated 13 percent and saved an estimated 24,560 lives since 1975. The age-21 MLDA has also led to decreases in the number of teen DWI arrests, youth suicides, marijuana use, crime, and alcohol consumption by youth.

The most recent analysis of the effects of MLDA laws examined the ratio of drinking to non-drinking drivers younger than age 21 who were involved in fatal crashes from 1982 through 1990. An 11.2% reduction in this measure was linked to adoption of laws prohibiting legal possession and purchase of alcohol by persons younger than age 21. (Fell JC et al, 2008) A higher minimum legal drinking age is effective in preventing alcohol-related deaths and injuries among youth. When the MLDA has been lowered, injury and death rates increase, and when the MLDA is increased, death and injury rates decline (Wagenaar, 1993).

A common argument among opponents of a higher MLDA is that because many minors still drink and purchase alcohol, the policy does not work. The evidence shows, however, that although many youth still consume alcohol, they drink less and experience fewer alcohol-related injuries and deaths (Wagenaar, 1993). Research shows that when the MLDA is 21, people under age 21 drink less overall and continue to do so through their early twenties (O'Malley & Wagenaar, 1991).

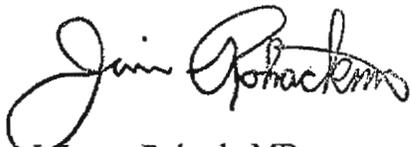
Senator Vicente Pangelinan

June 4, 2010

Page 2

In 2006, the AMA House of Delegates, which represents emergency physicians, pediatricians, family doctors, and all other medical specialties, passed a resolution in support of a 21 minimum legal drinking age as a public health measure. In 2004, the same body passed a resolution calling on all of the U.S. territories to adopt age 21. The AMA urges the Guam legislature to move quickly in adopting a minimum legal drinking age of 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. James Rohack, MD". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

J. James Rohack, MD

**Statement of Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG**

Board Certified Diplomate  
American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Member, American Medical Association

Before the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature in FAVOR of

**Bill 389-30**

An act to *amend* Article 3 of § 3303, Article 4 of § 3419 and § 3420, and Article 6 of § 3619, of Chapter 3 Title 11, and Article 1 of § 18102, and § 18121 of Chapter 18, Title 16, of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to increasing the minimum legal drinking age.

June 9, 2010

Chairman Pangelinan, members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of raising Guam's Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) to 21.

I would like to disclose that I have no conflicts of interest in coming before you. The interest of this bill is to save lives and families. That said, I firmly believe that all senators of this legislature have no conflicts of interests if you vote yes to passage of this bill. The only conflicts of interest that will emerge will be if you walk away or if you vote no. Voting yes is in the best interest of public health and safety.

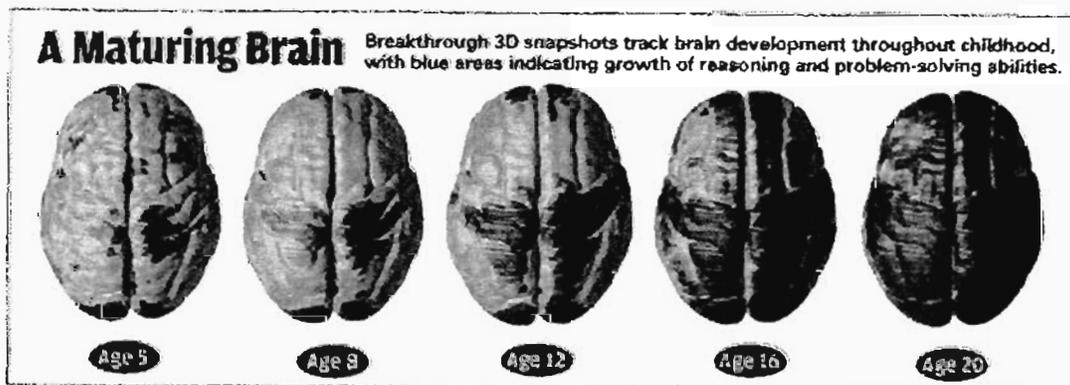
What we are advocating here is consistent with what has already been stated by our Health and Human Services of the United States of America, the National Institute of Medicine, the American Medical Association, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA), just to name a few are all in favor of bill 389, to raise the drinking age to 21.

Drinking alcohol under the age of 21 can have catastrophic consequences both for young people and their families. Alcohol damage to the brain interferes with mental and social development and interrupts academic progress. It is a major contributing factor in the three leading causes of death in young adults, accidents, homicide and suicide and increases the chances of juvenile delinquency and crime.

Our main interest is for the good public health and safety. That is why you see so many of our health care providers here today testifying in support.

The myth for those who say, "If I am old enough to go to war, I should be old enough to drink," is just that a myth.

Fact: Many rights have different ages of initiation. You can get a hunting license at age 12, drive at age 16, vote and serve in the military at age 18, serve in the Guam Legislature at age 25. And there are other regulated rights dealing with age. For alcohol, our U.S. National Standards is age 21, because our research have shown that a person's brain does not stop developing until his or her early to mid-20s. Drinking alcohol while the brain is still developing can lead to long-lasting deficits in cognitive abilities, including learning and memory.



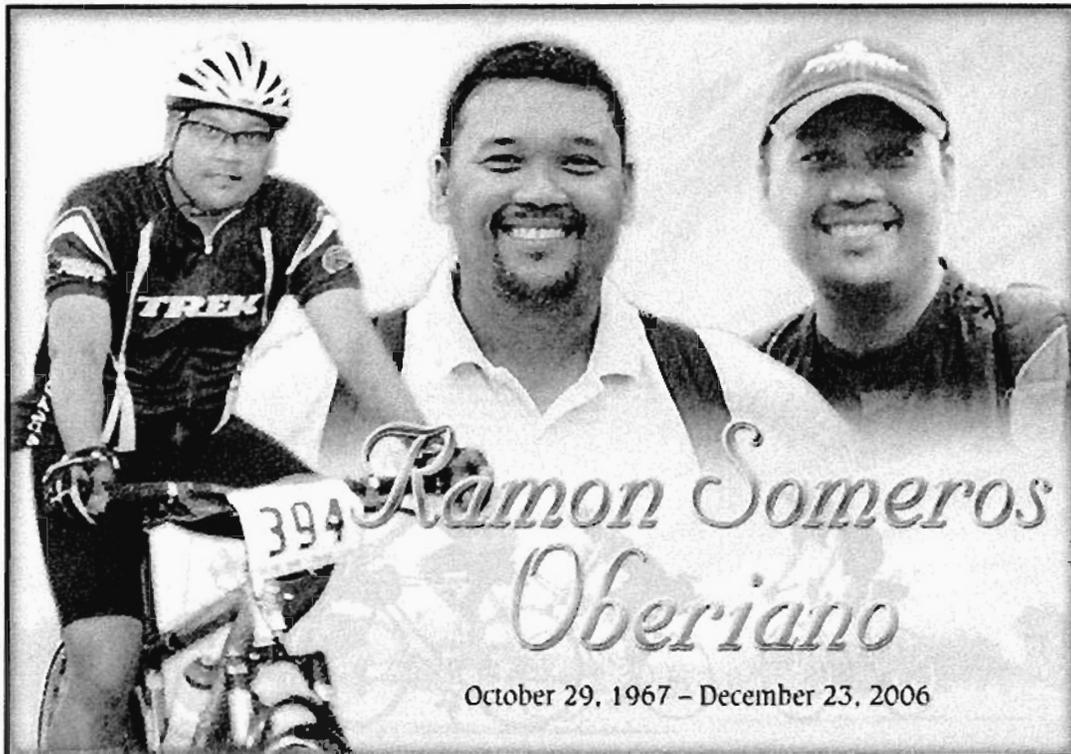
Here are more facts:

- Those who began drinking at the age of 18 are 70% percent more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until the age of 21.
- In 2004, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism concluded that alcohol abuse and dependence are “Developmental Disorders.” What that means is that this addiction process starts in youth and young adults.
- An analysis published in the issue of Biological psychiatry stated that the onset of alcohol dependence peaks by 18 – 19 years of age.
- The Centers for Disease Control stated that the highest rate for STDs are among those under the age of 21, and that teens who use alcohol are seven times more likely to be sexually active, putting them at greater risk of STDs. I can attest to you that Guam’s STD rate is very high.
- The U.S. Dept of Health and Human Services and Substance Abuse and mental Health Services support a drinking age of 21. In their report to congress, one of the goals to prevent underage drinking is to “reduce demand for, the availability of, and access to alcohol by persons under the age of 21.”
- Over 400% increase in Alcohol Related Admission at Guam Mental Health. This is from one of the Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile 2006
- Over 300% increase in alcohol-related juvenile arrests on Guam: “GPD reports that in 2002, 5.8%\_of minors taken into custody were for alcohol-related offenses. This is an increase from previous years.”

- “According to GPD, of minors taken into custody for alcohol and drug violations in 2005, **49%** were for alcohol-related offenses.”
- 36.4% - 62.5% of murders on Guam in 2003, 2006 were alcohol related.
- Alcohol-related cancers account for 3 of the top 5 causes of cancer death on Guam.
- Liver cirrhosis is the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death on Guam.
- About 30% of suicides on Guam are associated with the use of alcohol.
- Each year Guam averages one of the highest in DUI arrests in the age group of 18, 19, and 20 year olds. That is statically significant. Don't be fool by the data that bunches up 20 -24 yr olds, and 25 -29 yr olds, because that is 5 years combined within those age categories. Break those ages down individually and equally account for them, you'll see that 18-20 yr olds actually are very high not only in DUIs, but also in binge drinking, and public intoxication.
- Over 96% of alcohol abusers began drinking under the age of 21.
- Alcohol is associated with the most violent of crimes.

The reality here is that, some people only focus on traffic fatalities are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the effects of alcohol,

But some fatalities should take notice, such as the tragic death of **Ramon Someros Oberiano**



Of Barrigada Heights, was called by the Heavenly Father on Saturday, December 23, 2006 at the age of 39.

Oberiano, 39, was killed early Saturday morning while riding his bicycle with a group on Marine Corps Drive in Piti. According to police, Oberiano was struck by a vehicle from behind. He died two hours later as a result of his injuries, police said. Two other victims, both women, were also injured.

The vehicle's driver was 19-year-old Kevin Michael Jackson, a sailor from the USS Frank Cable, he was driving under the influence of alcohol.

Let me remind you that as Father's Day approaches us next week, Ramon's kids won't have his father next to them because it was killed by a drunk driver.

19-year-old Kevin Jackson is sitting in jail. A sailor's life destroyed.

Two lives gone, two families disrupted. Makes you wonder if the minimum drinking age law were 21 at that time, would that have saved Ramon Oberiano. Deep inside of me, I truly believe that it would have.

Deep inside of me I believe that if the MLDA was 21 on Guam, this 19-year-old sailer Kevin Jackson would not have drank alcohol and as he would have followed the law.

But the law on Guam was 18, and that responsibility rests with you senators, you have the power to save lives and you did not act. Today, you have the power to act, do not let another father die because you did not act.

You don't need to be a doctor or a nurse. You can help us save lives by passing Bill 389, raise the minimum drinking age to 21. There are no more lives to waste. Don't wait for another victim to be killed, or disabled, or one more family or a young man's life destroyed.

I wish I could have met Ramon. He sounded like a great man, a great father, a great husband.

Now please don't tell me that this was just one single incident. Let us not forget about 18-year-old Johnathan Borja, who was driving his truck to get more beer, and slammed into Lisa, a bright beautiful 15-year-old girl who was just walking home from school. She was dead on impact. She never even had the opportunity to go to her prom or graduate from high school.

There are many other victims and families, and I don't intend to remind you of every single one of them. You know who they are. You probably attended their rosaries. Recognize also that many victims involved in alcohol accidents don't die, but they are left with life long disabilities.

Sure its about personal responsibility. But that's a vague term isn't it? When the alcohol companies say "Drink Responsibly," research has shown that it is vague and contractory, when we have banners on Guam that shows "Beer all you can drink."

This is a collective responsibility. It is important to know your responsibility as Senators, which is to pass good laws and MLDA of 21 is a law that will save lives and families. It is a law that's in place in all 50 states.

A MLDA of 21 is a critical component of a strategy to help our children grow up to lead healthy and productive lives. Other key elements of a prevention strategy after you pass Bill 389 is to include regulating alcohol advertising, and increasing alcohol taxes.

Senators, all we are asking of you is to help us save lives and save families. I believe that Ramon, Lisa and every life that's lost due to alcohol would be alive today if MLDA of 21 was the law.

Lastly, U.S. Military on Guam has already raised them MLDA to 21. And in order for us to prepare for the military build up, we must support our troops by following our national standard of MLDA of 21, or we will see harm to not just our military but to our public health and safety as well.

Senators, for every life that you help us save, it provides that life saved his or her opportunity to save others.

You have the ability to pass and save life forward. So, do the right thing, pass Bill 389, pass life forward.

Thank you,

**Thomas Shieh, MD, FACOG**

**CHRISTINE D. CAMACHO**  
**P.O. Box 280**  
**Hagatna, Guam 96932**  
**Ph: (671) 734-5601**

June 8, 2010

**Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan**  
**Chairman, Committee on Appropriations**  
**Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement**  
**And Land**  
30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
324 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 100  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Re: Personal Testimonial in Support of Bills' 356-30 (COR) relative to reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages; 357-30 (COR) to stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale; and 389-30 (COR) relative to increasing the minimum legal drinking age.

Dear Senator Pangelinan,

I am a firm believer that the above bills are important measures that could save the lives of many, deter the negative and social effects associated with alcohol abuse, and prevent underage drinking in our community. As a community member that has dealt with alcohol abuse, I humbly ask that the members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature consider passing all of the above bills for the safety and well being of our children and families.

I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of underage drinking and alcohol abuse in my family. My brother Josh was 17 years old when he got tangled into a world of alcohol and drug addiction. He got his alcohol from friends that were 18 years old and above. If the minimum legal drinking age were raised to 21, then more than likely my brother would have not been exposed to designated buyers (ages 18, 19, 20'yr olds) that contributed to his delinquent behavior. Josh hung around the wrong crowd and nearly went to jail for crimes committed while abusing alcohol. He was young and faced the possibility of eight (8) years in prison. He had an alcohol and drug addiction and needed help but saw no way out.

Society shunned him away and family members referred to him as an alcoholic, a loser, a drug-addict and suggested that he be locked up in prison. This is my baby brother...my one and **ONLY** brother...who was a troubled kid that needed love and parental guidance. I remember him crying in my bathroom asking me to help him get better. At this moment, I knew that my brother needed me otherwise something drastic could have happened to him. He expressed thoughts of suicide and feared going to jail. As a mother and an older sister, I needed to shield him from any more danger and reassure him that things would get better. I became my brother's keeper and his guardian. I worked out an agreement with the Attorney General's office to take him to weekly counseling sessions at the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Branch. He finished high school but staying sober was difficult especially because he experienced withdrawal symptoms such as hallucinations, cold and night sweats, and paranoia.

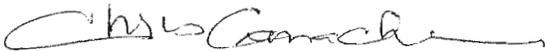
Relapse episodes lead to binge drinking and a near death experience. On constant guard, I felt helpless as I watch my brother struggled through recovery. All I kept thinking was he is too young to be dealing with the effects of alcohol abuse. That is why raising the drinking age is so important. It would make it harder for other young people like "Josh" to easily access alcohol through designated buyers and allow them to seriously think about the consequences of their actions.

Today, thankfully Josh is doing better. He joined the U.S. Air Force and is currently stationed in England. He's 22 now and has a better outlook on life, which is to excel in his military career. Josh tells me how grateful he is that I intervened and saved his life when he hit rock bottom. My brother was given a second chance because of the support and the programs that kept him sober.

Again, I ask you to consider passing Bills 356-30 (COR), 357-30 (COR) and 389-30 (COR) to give others like Josh a chance to clearly make important life choices. I practice prevention both in my personal and professional life and I would feel much more at ease knowing that there are laws in place that will safeguard my children and others from the detrimental effects of alcohol abuse.

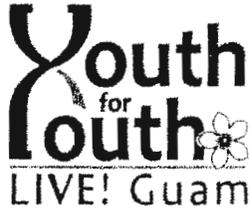
Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide my personal testimonial.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine D. Camacho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

CHRISTINE D. CAMACHO

Mother, Prevention Advocate, Student and My Brother's Keeper



# Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam

June 9, 2010

vincente c. pangelinan,  
Senator, 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
324 West Soledad Avenue  
Hagatna, Guam 96932

Subject: Support of Bill 389-30, Bill 356-30, and Bill 357-30

***Hafa Adai Senator pangelinan,***

For the past 22 years, the Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam organization has advocated for change in our island community and has promoted positive alcohol and drug free lifestyles and healthy alternatives among our island's youth. We, the officers of Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam respectfully submit this testimony in support of Bill 356-30, Bill 357-30, and Bill 389-30. Alcohol abuse and underage drinking is prominent among the people of Guam. According to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Guam has a higher heavy drinking rate and binge-drinking rate than that of the United States.

As advocates for drug and alcohol free lifestyles we feel that these bills will help reduce many of the issues Guam has today with alcohol consumption. Bill 356-30 deals with reducing the amount of hours alcohol can be sold. This bill will reduce the overall use of alcohol on Guam. Bill 357-30 will strengthen the penalties to those who sell alcohol before or after legal hours. This bill will make alcohol vendors think twice before they break the law to make a quick buck. Bill 389-30 will increase the minimum legal drinking age from 18 to 21 on Guam. This bill will reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents, which is the leading cause of death among teenagers, on Guam.

All of these measure will help better Guam overall. They will help make Guam a better place to live. For these reasons we thank Vice Speaker B. J. Cruz for bringing up these bills and for you committee members for taking the time out to address them. We hope that you will take into consideration what we have said here today.

Sincerely,

Daniel Osborn  
President

Sean Rupley  
Vice President

Baron Mafnas  
Secretary

Marlijo Serineo  
Treasurer



Prevention and Early Intervention Advisory Community Empowerment  
Ph: (671) 477-9079 thru 83, Fax: (671) 477-9076

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June 9, 2010

**Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan**  
**Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,**  
**Taxation, Banking, Insurance,**  
**Retirement and Land**  
**Guam 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature**  
**Committee on**  
**324 West Soledad Avenue**  
**Hagatna, Guam 96932**

**Subject: Support of Bill 356-30 (COR), Bill 357-30 and Bill 389-30,**

Dear Senator Pangelinan,

As the Underage Drinking Prevention Coordinator for Guam's PEACE Project for the Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant, I am writing in support of Bill 356-30 (COR) – relative to reducing the hours of which alcohol can be sold, Bill 357-30 – stiffens the penalties for selling alcohol before or after legal hours and Bill 389-30 – to increase the minimum legal drinking age. These three bills support the efforts of reducing alcohol abuse and underage drinking prevention, of which is a major public health concern on our island.

The Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile indicates:

- 6.9% of adults on Guam are heavy drinkers and 20% engage in binge drinking
- Heavy drinking and binge drinking are significantly higher among adults on Guam as compared to the US; of which both are predominantly reported by young adults age 18-34.
- Youth on Guam reported drinking as early as 13 years old;
- 36% of high school students are current drinkers and 19% engage in binge drinking.
- Alcohol directly contributes to liver cirrhosis, the 9<sup>th</sup> leading death on Guam.
- Alcohol related cancers account for 3 of the 5 top causes of cancer deaths on Guam.
- 44% of fatalities on Guam were alcohol-related;
- 176 DUI arrests involved individuals under the age of 25; and
- 30% of suicides are associated with the use of alcohol – with an average of one suicide death occurring every two weeks on Guam.

In addition, research shows that the brain continues to develop throughout adolescence and well into young adulthood. Early alcohol use may have long-lasting consequences. People who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence at some time in their lives compared with those who have their first drink at age 20 or older.

To reduce alcohol abuse and prevent underage drinking requires having individual-level and environmental-level interventions. Individual-level interventions include: School-based and family-based programs. Environmental-level interventions include: Raising the Price of Alcohol, Enacting Zero-Tolerance Laws, Stepping Up Enforcement of laws; and Increasing the Minimum Legal Drinking Age.

Our island has dealt with far too many alcohol related- motor vehicle crashes, family violence, cancer and suicides. We must improve on Guam's environmental interventions. The passing of Bill 356-30, Bill 357-30 and Bill 389-30 will be a significant environmental impact towards having a healthier and safer community.

I thank you, Senator B.J. Cruz and other committee members for taking the necessary steps needed to improve our community's health and safety issues.

Thank you!



Audrey J.A. Topasna

Underage Drinking Prevention Coordinator

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse  
 Clinical Services Division  
 Drug and Alcohol Branch

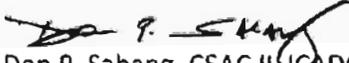
To: Senators of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
 From: Substance Abuse Program Supervisor, Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse  
 Subject: Support Increasing the Minimum Legal Drinking Age on Guam from 18 to 21 years of age  
 Date: June 09, 2010

The Drug and Alcohol Branch of the Guam Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse support increasing the minimum drinking age on Guam from 18 to 21 years due to the following argument:

- The earlier a person begins alcohol use, the greater the chances are of that person becoming an alcoholic later in life, suffering negative physical withdrawal symptoms, and harming his/her brain during its development (Reference: NIAA Publication-Alcohol Alert NO.59 and ProCon.Org, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit).
- Abnormal detoxification process reduces levels of dopamine. High levels of etoh in the brain when combined with dopamine results in a new chemical called Tetraisoquinoline (THIQ). Increased THIQ lowers dopamine levels. Low levels of dopamine increases risks for depression and even suicide. The number of children of alcoholics on Guam is rather high as argued with the data below. Children of Alcoholic parents or grandparents are 3 to 4 times at higher risks of becoming alcoholics, thus having high tolerance at first alcohol use (Supported by results found by Dr. Marc Shuckett, Chairperson of Committee for the Substance Related Disorders of the DSM-IV and with over 30 years of alcohol abuse and dependence focused research).

Fiscal Year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30)	No. of Clients Served	Approximate No. Diagnosed with Substance Dependence (DSM-IV-TR)	Approximate No. Diagnosed with Alcohol Dependence (DSM-IV-TR) with 60% Etoh Usage	No. of Individuals in Need of Treatment is 6,000 (Needs Assessment 2007 by Dr. Randall Workman-DMHSA Project)
FY 2006	758	236	141.6	
FY 2007	965	351	210.6	20% of 6,000 is 1200 clients
FY 2008	1199	426	255.6	

- In FY 2007, an estimated 6,000 individuals were in need of treatment. Out of this number an actual total of 965 or approximately 16% showed up in Treatment. Of the 965 approximately 20% were diagnosed with alcohol dependence. 20% was used as a benchmark for alcohol dependence of every 965 persons. Approximately 1200 persons would have been diagnosed with alcohol dependence should all 6,000 individuals reported to treatment (Department of Mental Health Annual Statistics for FY 2006, 2007, and 2008 and Needs Assessment 2007 by initiated by Dr. Randall Workman and completed by Dr. Annette David). The high number of children of alcoholic parents living on Guam suggests the earlier they begin drinking alcohol the sooner they will suffer the consequences of dependence.

Submitted By:   
 Don P. Sabang, CSAC II, ICADC  
 Substance Abuse Program Supervisor  
 Drug and Alcohol Branch, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse

June 9, 2010

Nathaniel Berg, M.D.  
Guam Radiology Consultants  
Suite 210, Guam Medical Plaza  
633 Gov. Carlos Camacho Road  
Tamuning, Guam 96913 USA  
Office No: 671 649-1001 Ext 135  
www.guamradiology.com

Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz  
Vice-Speaker  
I Liheslaturan Guåhan  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Bill No. 389-30 (COR) - B.J.F. Cruz: An act to amend Article 3 of § 3303, Article 4 of § 3419 and § 3420, and Article 6 of § 3619, of Chapter 3 Title 11, and Article 1 of § 18102, and § 18121 of Chapter 18, Title 16, of the Guam Code Annotated

Senator Cruz and  
Members of imina' Trenta Liheslature Guahan:

I have previously written my opinion regarding the need to raise the minimum legal drinking age on Guam to 21 years. I have enclosed a copy of this previously published letter of support.

It is important that we always consider the totality of the evidence available when making what truly amounts to a change in our laws based upon concerns for public health and safety. Reviewing one or two strongly worded articles or submission of publications that support a specific previously existing conclusion does not well serve our community. Nor does a failure to review data as it appears in the scientific literature. It is hoped that we will look at as much scientifically based research as we can before we reach a conclusion.

Yes, my personal experience tells me that legal availability of alcohol for those under age 21 is associated with significant risks to the individual, their families and our community. Few enter the review of this topic without some sort of opinion. However, when asked to consider writing a letter of support for Bill 389-30, I followed the principles taught to all us in our professional schooling and thoroughly reviewed the scientific data again. I specifically sought any new data, or data that I might have previously been unaware of pointing toward more effective alternative methods of reducing the untoward impacts of a legal drinking age below 21 years. Are there effective alternatives to restricting access for 18 to 20 year old members of our community of Guam (and our visitors) to a currently legal substance?

There is a large body of evidence available for review. The data collected and analyzed is of varying vintage. Some of the newer studies I reviewed have clearly flawed statistical analysis, while others from forty years ago well evaluate the impact of the change of a drinking age on specific public health issues, e.g. fatal and non-fatal automobile accidents.

Perhaps the most interesting and sound data are from states where the legal drinking age was lowered from 21 years to 18 years and then later reversed. Between 1970 to 1975, 29 states lowered their minimum legal drinking age from 21 to 18, 19, or 20. The enactment of the National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 prompted all of these states to raise their legal age for purchase or public possession of alcohol to 21 or risk losing millions in federal highway funds. Specific periods can thus be isolated, data collected and properly assessed.

I attended high school and university in Massachusetts. During my high school years, the minimum legal drinking age was 18 and alcohol was rather readily available to anyone in high school as older classmates could readily supply it. Access became extremely difficult for high school student when the drinking age was raised to 21. That was my experience. But, did this amount to a significant change in the health and well being of the community? That is far more important than what I personally observed.

I've attached several studies that address the issue in two states that experienced the lowered drinking ages, including one focused on Massachusetts and The U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) assessment of the impact returning the legal drinking age to had on fatal accidents in the United States.

NHTSA estimates nearly age-21 laws have prevented 25,000 teen traffic deaths. The percentage of teen drivers killed in traffic crashes with a blood alcohol level above the legal limit has dropped from 56 percent in 1982 to 23 percent in 2005. Although the data is rather compelling, it was not enough by itself for me to arrive at a final conclusion. Further review of the data available was required.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has, as part of its mission has reviewed a large portion of the research to date. They have well presented a summary of the findings. I've listed the citations at the end of this letter

#### **The Public Health Problems of Concern:**

- Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to more than 4,600 deaths among underage youth, that is, persons less than 21 years of age, in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup>
- Underage drinking is strongly associated with many health and social problems among youth including alcohol-impaired driving, physical fighting, poor school performance, sexual activity, and smoking.<sup>2</sup>
- Most underage youth who drink do so to the point of intoxication, that is, they binge drink (defined as having five or more drinks in a row), typically on multiple occasions.<sup>2</sup>
- Current drinking during the previous month among persons aged 18 to 20 years declined significantly from 59% in 1985 to 40% in 1991, coincident with states' adopting an age 21 minimum legal drinking age, but increased to 47% by 1999.<sup>3</sup>
- The prevalence of current drinking among persons aged 21 to 25 also declined significantly from 70% in 1985 to 56% in 1991, but increased to 60% by 1999.<sup>3</sup>
- 

#### **The Relationship Between Youth and Adult Drinking**

- Binge drinking by adults is a strong predictor of binge drinking by college students living in the same state.<sup>4</sup>
- There are approximately 1.5 billion episodes of binge drinking among persons aged 18 years or older in the United States annually, most of which involve adults age 26 years and older.<sup>5</sup>
- More than half of all active duty military personnel report binge drinking in the past month, and young adult service members exposed to combat are at significantly greater risk of binge drinking than older service members.<sup>6</sup>
- More than 90% of adult binge drinkers are not alcohol dependent.<sup>7</sup>
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#### **Methods of Prevention of Underage Drinking**

- The Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommends implementing and maintaining an age 21 minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) based on strong evidence of effectiveness, including a median 16% decline in motor vehicle crashes among underage youth in states that increased the legal drinking age to 21 years.<sup>8</sup>
- The Task Force on Community Preventive Services also recommends enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors to reduce such sales.<sup>9</sup>
- Age 21 MLDA laws result in lower levels of alcohol consumption among young adults age 21 years and older as well as those less than age 21 years.<sup>10</sup>
- States with more stringent alcohol control policies tend to have lower adult and college binge drinking rates.<sup>4</sup>

I examined numerous other sources of information from well-designed evaluation of data. This led to my arriving at the same conclusion I reached prior to writing my letter endorsing raising the minimum legal drinking age on Guam to 21 years. It is not possible in this letter for me to list all of the articles I reviewed. The CDC well written assessment of most of the studies and their conclusion are essentially identical to those I reached. They serve as an excellent explanation as to how I finally came to my conclusion.

In addition to the age 21 minimum legal drinking age, the CDC has concluded that the body of scientific evidence does support other effective strategies for preventing underage drinking including increasing alcohol excise taxes<sup>11</sup> and limiting alcohol outlet density<sup>9</sup>. Youth exposure to alcohol marketing also is effective<sup>11</sup>. I agree with their conclusions regarding these additional possible steps to take.

Perhaps these additional measures can be addressed after we as a community take what is clearly and scientifically supported as the most effective method of addressing the negative public health impact of maintaining a minimum legal drinking age of 18. That one step, which I strongly encourage all members of the legislature to support, is voting to pass bill 389-30.

I thank you for taking the time to read my opinion and apologize for not being available during the hearing as I am currently off-island.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nathaniel Berg', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathaniel Berg, M.D.

## References:

1. CDC. Alcohol Related Disease Impact (ARDI). Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/ardi/Homepage.aspx>. Accessed on September 3, 2008.
2. Miller JW, Naimi TS, Brewer RD, Jones SE. Binge drinking and associated health risk behaviors among high school students. *Pediatrics* 2006;119:76-85.
3. Serdula M, Brewer R, Gillespie C, Denny C, Mokdad A. Trends in alcohol use and binge drinking 1985–1999, results of a multistate survey. *Am J Prev Med* 2004; 26:294–298.
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5. Naimi T, Brewer RD, Mokdad A, Serdula M, Denny C, Marks J. Binge drinking among U.S. adults. *JAMA* 2003;289:70–5.
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9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Alcohol. Guide to Community Preventive Services Web site. Available at <http://www.thecommunityguide.org/alcohol/>. \* Accessed September 3, 2008.
10. O'Malley PM, Wagenaar AC. Effects of minimum drinking age laws on alcohol use, related behaviors, and traffic crash involvement among American youth: 1976–1987. *J Stud Alcohol* 1991;52:478–491.
11. Bonnie RJ, O'Connell ME, eds. Reducing underage drinking: A collective responsibility. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press; 2004.



Date: June 8, 2010

To: Senator Ben Pangelinan,  
324 West Soledad Avenue,  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

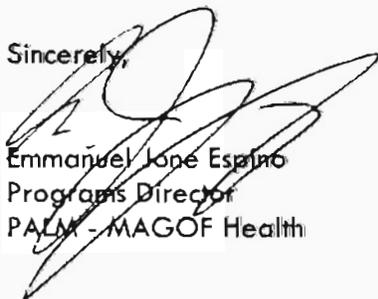
Reference:

Bill No. 356-30; Bill No.357-30 and Bill No. 389-30

This letter is in support of Bill No. 356-30: which will reduce the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages; Bill No. 357-30: to stiffen the penalty imposed on violator of the legal hours of sale of alcoholic beverages; and the last but the least Bill No. 389-30: which would increase the minimum legal drinking age 21 years old.

Pacific Abundant Living Ministries (PALM) & Magof Health is a coalition with members from different sectors of our community private business, non-profit organization, government, religious groups, some educator and other in the medical field. We are all proud to support an alcohol and drug free Guam. The work of our coalition volunteers are in prevention of alcohol and substances abuse. I understand these changes in the law are not solution to solve all the problems related to alcoholism, family violence, traffic fatalities on our island. It's a heart issue, when Jesus Christ changed my heart my appetite for alcohol and drugs changed. Yes, we can help prevent through education, awareness, and having a proactive community. With many crimes influenced by alcohol, arrests due to drunkenness have quadruple between 1996 to 2005 reported by GPD. The disorders such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and liver disease are on the rise. This bill is in the right direction of where we need to go. We are proud to support the passage of Bills Nos. 356-30, 357-30, & 389-30.

Sincerely,



Emmanuel Jone Espino  
Programs Director  
PALM - MAGOF Health

Tel: 649-9561 Cell: 888-3715 \* 132 El Dorado Lane, Upper Tumon, Across Pia Marine

My name is Denisha Sulio, I am 16 years old and I am representing Sanctuary's Yes crew (Youth Embracing Sanctuary). Personally I support the bill that they are trying to pass to raise the drinking age to 21. It is a great idea and it will really help decrease other issues Guam faces involving alcohol. Issues such as underage drinking, alcohol related fatalities and family violence as well. Research states that one method of Environmental - level intervention is to increase the minimum legal drinking age. It has also been the most successful intervention to date in reducing drinking and alcohol related crashes among people under age 21. Research from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, estimates that a legal drinking age of 21 saves 700 to 1,000 lives annually and has prevented more than 21,000 traffic deaths since 1976.

They should also raise it to age 21 so that we are capable of making more responsible decisions, compared to when we are 18 because our brain is more developed. Therefore, if they raise the minimum drinking age to 21 it will help save lives, help them make better decisions, and our island will be a better and safer place to be.

My name is Liberty Sulio & I am representing Y.E.S crew which stands for Youth Embracing Sanctuary. In my opinion I support raising the drinking age from 18 to 21. One of my reasons I think they should pass the bill is because the crime & death rates involving alcohol usage will definitely decrease. According to Guam's Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile alcohol directly contributes to liver cirrhosis, which is the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of deaths on Guam. Did you know that alcohol related cancers account for 3 of the top 5 causes of cancer deaths on Guam?

Another reason why I am for this bill is because alcohol use has been involved in criminal arrests, vehicle crashes, violent crimes including family violence & suicide. Research shows in 2007 it was reported on Guam that 44% of fatalities were alcohol related & 176 DUI arrests involved individuals under the age of 25. Part of my research shows that Guam has an average of one suicide occurring every 2 weeks & 30% of those suicides are associated with the use of alcohol? I feel if this bill was to be passed it will ensure the safety of Guam's people just a little more.



# Sanctuary, Incorporated of Guam

*A Non-profit Organization Established in 1971*

406 MaiMai Road Chalan Pago, Guam 96910 • Administrative Office (671)475-7101  
Crisis Hotline (671)475-7100 • Fax (671)477-3117 • Email: [sanctuar@ite.net](mailto:sanctuar@ite.net)



Date: June 4, 2010

To: Senator Ben Pangelinan,  
324 West Soledad Avenue,  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Fr: Sanctuary, Incorporated of Guam  
406 Mai Mai Rd.  
Chalan Pago, GU 96910

Re: Legal Drinking Age and Other Legislation Testimony

Senator Pangelinan,

There are numerous arguments that support raising the drinking age from 18 to 21. These arguments consist of increased alcohol related arrests and DUI rates on the island as compared to the continental United States. Supporters expose evidence of adverse effects of alcohol on the teenage brain and give statistics of the decrease in alcohol related traffic fatalities. There is a multitude of different alcohol statistics that we could report such as 60% of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and 55% of fights and abuse in the home are linked to alcohol. However, reporting the facts is not enough. There must be change.

Sanctuary incorporated has taken an active role in addressing these issues; trying to make a change on our island. On an average month, there are about 25 clients enrolled in our various drug and alcohol classes and support groups. There are six (6) clients that reside at our youth rehabilitation facility where we treat children suffering from alcohol addiction as early as age 12. In addition to this, Guam's public and private middle and high schools provide a constant flow of referrals of youth to our drug and alcohol programs; many of the youth admitting to acquiring the alcohol from their legal aged relatives.

Unfortunately, alcohol is becoming a more dominant part of the island culture than many of us would care to admit. Only on Guam do you find more alcohol at a Christening or first birthday party than all the other drinks combined. Only on Guam is the Godfather of the groom expected to provide enough alcohol for the entire party which is typically more than soda, juice, and water. Only on Guam do men have a three days worth of drinking in a row when they set up, barbeque, and clean up after a celebration. Only on Guam do men bring cases of beer to a potluck even if they already put out their

chenu'le. These little statements might have brought a smile to your face as you recall your own personal stories of celebrating and alcohol.

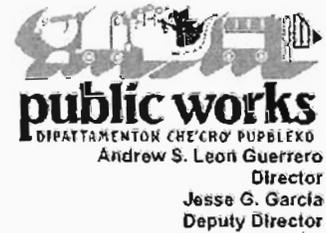
However, let us not forget that these celebrations often times end in fights amongst siblings and close relatives. Let us recall the domestic violence we see at these gatherings; teaching our youth that alcohol and violence is tolerable and is to be expected. More than recalling, let us put into motion the wheels of change to further combat these issues. Let us change the outside world's perception of Guam. Let us act on this issue and realize that "only on Guam" can we preserve our culture and identity and continue to celebrate without alcohol. As a youth services agency, we implore you to support legislation that will help us and our partners prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse. Thank you.

Stephanie Guzman,  
Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist



The Honorable  
**Felix P. Camacho**  
Governor

The Honorable  
**Michael W. Cruz, M.D.**  
Lieutenant Governor



Andrew S. Leon Guerrero  
Director  
Jesse G. Garcia  
Deputy Director

## Department of Public Works – Office of Highway Safety Written Testimony – Bill No. 389

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony and to testify regarding the important work of this committee. We welcome the chance this committee has to help refine and strengthen prevention efforts to reduce underage drinking on Guam.

It is in the DPW's Office of Highway Safety venue to promote highway safety in Guam's roadways. Participation in testimony to legislations such as Bill 389 (to increase the minimum legal drinking age to 21) is a role DPW Office of Highway Safety takes seriously, especially to influence changed behaviors that will ultimately promote the safety of our general community and all motorists throughout Guam's roadways.

As the State Office advocate for highway safety, DPW Office of Highway Safety, through its grant funded program initiatives *and* as can be seen in a trend of five years, of the total 5,146 DUI offenses, 7% or a total 241 DUI offenses involved our youth community, under age 21 years. This number in comparison may seem minimal, however, DUI offenses by youths under age 21 is prominent to the responsibility we have as a community to ensure the safety and protection of our young motorists and the general community who share Guam's roadways. A successful passing of Bill 389 will provide our youths the opportunity to develop and be grounded with good habits, acquiring the level of skill, maturity and experience necessary to possess certification as a valid driver licensed to operate a motor vehicle safely and soundly on Guam's roadways. *The window that a young motorist has upon acquiring a permit to operate a motor vehicle on Guam's roadways is precisely at that under age 21 frame. It is at that window that with the passing of Bill 389 we will have exercised with ultimate responsibility to influence our young motorist to develop with clarity a mental maturity necessary when operating a motor vehicle on Guam's roadways. And it is at that window (underage 21) that we can influence changed behavior that will ensure the safety of our young motorists as well as ensures the safety of all other motorists and passengers traveling Guam's roadways. Finally, it is at that window, when we as a community will have contributed to a changed behavior that will ensure the safety of Guam's youth and general community.*

We view the Committee's charge as a truly historic opportunity to take the first steps toward ending decades of complacency and neglect towards the protection of underage persons which is one of the most damaging and widespread public health and highway safety threats facing our social culture today.

For too long, this has been far too silent on underage drinking and the promise of many policy interventions and communication strategies to reduce the vexing problem of underage drinking and driving. This problem needs the highest visibility to provide the level of public support we so badly

need to solve. It is through efforts like yours and those of concerned parents, schools, communities and local government that we may hope to find better solutions to a problem that has such a devastating impact on so many of our young people and their families.

This proposed bill has been an important part of our office together with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's strategy to reduce alcohol-related fatalities among younger motorists. As the office charged with improving highway safety, we want to break the linkage between drinking and driving for young drivers. But it's the abuse of alcohol at large that is the real problem and that problem requires the concerted efforts of public health agencies at all levels of government to address.

Unfortunately, evidence indicates that many young people think that drinking and growing up go together. So far, the best solution to the underage drinking and driving problem appears to be the combination of continued public pressure for enforcement of the laws and increased educational efforts with respect to the dangers of drinking and driving. The Office of Highway Safety works directly with law enforcement agencies in a variety of law enforcement and educational activities directed at reducing underage drunk driving. We also provide comprehensive efforts at the community level to address underage drinking such as in the areas of student programs, worksite policies, and public information.

Finally, we would like to underscore the importance we place on the need to coordinate underage drunk driving prevention and enforcement policies and activities with government agencies, regarding this issue.

Again, thank you for holding this hearing and allowing us to appear before you and the Committee. We are confident that, with everyone working together, even greater reductions in underage alcohol-related fatalities will be achieved.

Sincerely,

 6/9/10  
ANDREW S. LEON GUERRERO  
Director/Governor's Highway Safety Representative

## **Testimony of Dr. Lee Meadows, MD in FAVOR of Bill 389-30**

June 5, 2010

Honorable Senator Cruz and fellow senators,

I am not here in person today as I am presently in the air on my way to Chicago because of a family medical situation. I have asked Dr. Sheih to present my testimony at this Public Hearing.

I am a pediatrician with 28 years of experience--18 of those in Guam. The largest portion of my practice is doing preventive medicine examinations on children and adolescents. The purpose of these visits is to identify threats that would adversely effect our children's health and prevent as many bad outcomes as possible. The most common cause of bad "health" or death in children is not disease but injury due to either intentional or unintentional causes. My remarks today will focus on the impact of early drinking on my patients.

Others today will present the physiologic impact of alcohol on the developing mind and the negative effects of excessive alcohol on the liver and other organs. I would like to focus on the impact of alcohol on injury and it social impact.

As the mind develops, the last ability to mature is that of good judgement--of clearly seeing what are the issues involved and the results of a given decision and making wise choices. This ability is not considered to reach full maturity until at least the age of 25. Just compare the choices college freshman make compared to college seniors just 4 years later. At age 18 the physical body is fully grown. It still can improve in stamina, co-ordination and strength with proper deveopment and peaks by the age of 30. But without further training the body is down hill after high school. On the other hand, the mental powers, the ability to learn, the amount of information mastered, and particularly the ability to make wise choices is not fully developed by the end of high school. These abilities continue to increase for at least another five to ten years. Alcohol in moderate to excessive doses impairs physical ability and co-ordination, but alcohol at even the one to two beer level affects judgement. If you are well practiced in making critical decisions (a 60 year old politician for example), you can drink a glass or even several of wine with your dinner and still make very good

choices. But if you are a novice at making wise choices (an 18 year-old military recruit for example) just one beer will wipe out whatever little bit of good sense that you had! This is the reason that young adults with just a couple of beers on the weekend get involved in fights, domestic violence or entering closed shopping malls through second story doors. Raising the age that alcohol is legally available from 18 to 21 may seem like it would make little difference. This is true is the main adverse effects alcohol had on this age were on physical health because there is no further natural development of the body after age 18. The main adverse effects on the young adult have to do with impaired judgement and judgement does continue to naturally develop after the age of 18. Raising the drinking age from 18 to 21 makes a significant difference in the ability to choose "responsibly".

Another major impact (pardon the pun) on the young adult is accidents, particularly driving accidents. Some accidents are caused by sheer lack of co-ordination (the drunk who can't walk a line) but most are caused by either poor judgement or by falling asleep. Many of the worst alcohol related motor vehicle accidents occur in the early morning on the way home from the party or bar when the driven falls asleep and either runs off the road or runs into something on the road. My experience is that teens are far more sensitive to this effect of alcohol than older people. I have seen multiple severe accidents from teens falling asleep from only one or two drinks taken earlier in the evening--and with a legal blood alcohol at the time of the accident. Lack of experience and poor judgement in a driving situation are also a major problem. Consider the young adult who pulled out in front of a motorcycle policeman causing a fatal accident because she misjudged his speed at the break of day in poor light. Or consider the young adults who have misjudged the combination of curves, speed, slick roads and concrete telephone poles and paid the ultimate price. Raising the drinking age from 18 to 21 makes a significant difference in the ability to drive "responsibly".

The argument is sometimes put forward that if you are old enough to vote or to serve that you are old enough to drink. There is a difference between making a wise choice between two political candidates after months of exposure to their abilities, ideals and short comings and being able to know how to react when somebody unjustly cusses you out. An 18 year old should be able to handle the first situation with ease, but thinking fast enough on your feet under threat--particularly if you are under the influence

is not a well developed talent of 18 year olds. Raising the drinking age from 18 to 21 makes a significant difference in the ability to react "responsibly".

In the military, the soldiers are placed in a very structured, well defined regimen and highly trained in how to safely handle dangerous situations--like using firearms. They are highly supervised and have well defined expectations and disciplines for failure. An 18 year-old can be trained to act very responsibly, even under extreme pressure, in such a program. Unfortunately, this type of training does not exist for most of our teens. When they are exposed to choices about alcohol, they are much less likely to make responsible decisions. Just because a youth can be very capable of carrying out very difficult tasks in the military does not qualify him to make good choices about alcohol in totally unsupervised and uncontrolled situations. Raising the drinking age from 18 to 21 makes a significant difference in the ability to drink "responsibly".

I strongly encourage our senators to do the responsible thing. Perform the action that will benefit our youth and our young adults. Create the legislation that will positively impact the health of Guamanians regardless of its financial impact on brewers, importers, dealers or club owners. Choose to benefit the entire island of Guam, and raise the drinking age to 21!

Lee H. Meadows, MD

# **Your Family Doctor's Support for MLDA 21**

## **Testimony of Dr. Michael Robinson M.D.**

### **in Favor of Bill 389-30.**

June 8, 2010

Honorable Senator Cruz,

I am greatfull that you have given me the opportunity to speak in support of Bill 389-30.

As a Family Physician, I have had the privilege of caring for the families of Guam for 11 years. I have seen personally the affects that underage drinking has had on the Guamanian Family.

Alcohol consumption and patterns of the use of alcohol abuse are widespread among adolescents and as a results lead to many adverse consequences for drinkers under the age of 21 years.

As you are aware for all drugs, alcohol is the drug of choice among adolescents. Research finds that “three-fourths of 12th graders, more than two-thirds of 10th graders, and about two in five 8th graders have consumed alcohol (more than a few sips) in their lifetime. Forty-five percent of 12th graders; 34 percent of 10th graders; and 17 percent of 8th graders reported using alcohol in the past month – more than cigarettes and marijuana combined.”<sup>1</sup>

“Injury is the leading cause of death among young people in the U.S. and alcohol is the leading contributor to injury deaths. In the U.S., an estimated 5,000 individuals under age 21 die each year from injuries caused by underage drinking.

These include:

- Motor Vehicle Crashes: About 1,900 deaths
- Homicides: About 1,600 deaths
- Suicides: About 300 deaths”<sup>2</sup>

“Although the American Academy of Family Physicians does not recommend consumption of alcohol, it does support a national standard minimum age for the legal purchase of alcohol. The AAFP publicly favors age 21 as the minimum legal age to purchase or consume alcohol.”<sup>3</sup>

I would like to ask you to VOTE for the Guamanian Family, and vote **YES** to Bill 389-30.

Si Yu’us Ma’ase,

Michael Robinson MD

Family Practice

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1 Johnston, L. D., O’Malley, P. M., Bachman, J. G., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2006). Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975–2005: Volume I, Secondary school students (NIH Publication No. 06-5883). Bethesda, MD: National Institute on Drug Abuse.

2 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2007) The Surgeon General's Call to Action To Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking. Office of the Surgeon

General. <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/underagedrinking/calltoaction.pdf>

3 <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/s/substanceabuse.html#Parsys0005>



# MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20036  
Tel: 1-800-438-6233  
Fax: (202)293-6106  
[www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)

June 8, 2010

The Honorable Vicente C. Pangelinan  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance Retirement, and Land  
324 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 100  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Chairman Pangelinan,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges your support of Bill 389. The legislation is a proven public health and safety measure that makes 21 the minimum age to drink alcohol. As one of the United States' most scrutinized public health laws, there is a wealth of data on the 21 law's effectiveness.

In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control looked at all of the high quality peer reviewed studies of the effects of changing the minimum drinking age law. Almost every study found that increasing the minimum drinking age to 21 saved lives with an average decrease of 16 percent.

Another study in 2002 by Wagenaar & Toomey looked at all research from 1960 to 2000 when states lowered and then raised their drinking age laws. Every single one of the 46 high-quality studies found that 21 minimum drinking age saves lives.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that the 21 year old minimum drinking age laws have reduced traffic fatalities involving drivers 18 to 20 years old by 13 percent and have saved an estimated 27,052 lives since 1975. In 2008, 714 lives were saved by 21 year old minimum drinking age laws.

Besides reducing binge drinking and drunk driving among 18-20 year olds, the 21 drinking age also reduces non-traffic death and injury. The 21 minimum drinking age has been linked to decreases in: homicides, suicides, and unintentional injuries.

The 21 year old minimum drinking age also helps those not directly affected by the law. NHTSA found that between 1982 and 1998, there were 61 percent fewer drinking drivers involved in fatal crashes under age 21 and a 56 percent decrease among 21-24 year olds. There were a number of safety improvements during this time -- better roads, better laws, safer cars, etc -- but because the people most directly affected by the law had the greatest decreases, NHTSA concluded "unequivocally that MLDA 21 laws reduce youth drinking and driving, as measured by traffic crash involvements."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving urges the Committee's support of Bill 389. The 21 year old minimum drinking age is a proven public safety and health measure that will help save lives, prevent injuries and reduce senseless deaths.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important lifesaving legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Dean-Mooney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Laura Dean-Mooney  
National President  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Enclosures



## Quick Stats

# Age 21 Minimum Legal Drinking Age

### Public Health Problem

- Excessive alcohol consumption contributes to more than 4,600 deaths among underage youth, that is, persons less than 21 years of age, in the United States each year.<sup>1</sup>
- Underage drinking is strongly associated with many health and social problems among youth including alcohol-impaired driving, physical fighting, poor school performance, sexual activity, and smoking.<sup>2</sup>
- Most underage youth who drink do so to the point of intoxication, that is, they binge drink (defined as having five or more drinks in a row), typically on multiple occasions.<sup>2</sup>
- Current drinking during the previous month among persons aged 18 to 20 years declined significantly from 59% in 1985 to 40% in 1991, coincident with states' adopting an age 21 minimum legal drinking age, but increased to 47% by 1999.<sup>3</sup>
- The prevalence of current drinking among persons aged 21 to 25 also declined significantly from 70% in 1985 to 56% in 1991, but increased to 60% by 1999.<sup>3</sup>



### Relationship Between Youth and Adult Drinking

- Binge drinking by adults is a strong predictor of binge drinking by college students living in the same state.<sup>4</sup>
- There are approximately 1.5 billion episodes of binge drinking among persons aged 18 years or older in the United States annually, most of which involve adults age 26 years and older.<sup>5</sup>
- More than half of all active duty military personnel report binge drinking in the past month, and young adult service members exposed to combat are at significantly greater risk of binge drinking than older service members.<sup>6</sup>
- More than 90% of adult binge drinkers are not alcohol dependent.<sup>7</sup>

## Prevention of Underage Drinking

- The Task Force on Community Preventive Services recommends implementing and maintaining an age 21 minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) based on strong evidence of effectiveness, including a median 16% decline in motor vehicle crashes among underage youth in states that increased the legal drinking age to 21 years.<sup>8</sup>
- The Task Force on Community Preventive Services also recommends enhanced enforcement of laws prohibiting the sale of alcohol to minors to reduce such sales.<sup>9</sup>
- Age 21 MLDA laws result in lower levels of alcohol consumption among young adults age 21 years and older as well as those less than age 21 years.<sup>10</sup>
- States with more stringent alcohol control policies tend to have lower adult and college binge drinking rates.<sup>4</sup>
- In addition to the age 21 MLDA, other effective strategies for preventing underage drinking include increasing alcohol excise taxes<sup>11</sup> and limiting alcohol outlet density<sup>9</sup>. Youth exposure to alcohol marketing should also be reduced.<sup>11</sup>

## References

1. CDC. Alcohol Related Disease Impact (ARDI). Available at <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/ardi/Homepage.aspx> (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/ardi/Homepage.aspx>). Accessed on September 3, 2008.
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6. Jacobson IG, Ryan MAK, Hooper TI, Smith TC, et al. Alcohol use and alcohol-related problems before and after military combat deployment. *JAMA* 2008;300:663–675.
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Page last reviewed: September 3, 2008

Page last modified: September 3, 2008

Content source: **Division of Adult and Community Health** (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dach/>), **National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion** (<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/>)

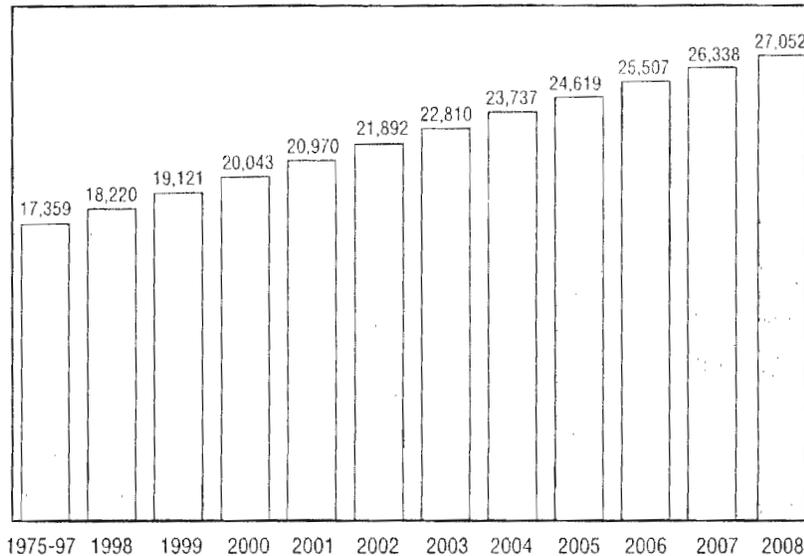
Page Located on the Web at <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/quickstats/mlda.htm>

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
SAFER • HEALTHIER • PEOPLE™

NHTSA estimates that the 21-year-old minimum drinking age laws have reduced traffic fatalities involving drivers 18 to 20 years old by 13 percent and have saved an estimated 27,052 lives since 1975. In 2008, an estimated 714 lives were saved by minimum-drinking-age laws.

Figure 2  
**Cumulative Estimated Number of Lives Saved by Minimum Drinking Age Laws, 1975-2008**



*“NHTSA estimates that minimum-drinking-age laws have saved 27,052 lives since 1975.”*

### For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-424, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted at 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at [www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/nhsa](http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/nhsa). To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Overview, Alcohol, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists, Children, Hispanic, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Pedestrians, Race and Ethnicity, Rural/Urban Comparisons, School Transportation-Related Crashes, Speeding, State Alcohol Estimates, and State Traffic Data*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at [www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx](http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CATS/index.aspx).



## *Guam Nurses Association*

P.O. Box CG • Hagatna, Guam 96932 • Telephone: (671) 787- 4148 • E-mail: [guamnursesassociation@yahoo.com](mailto:guamnursesassociation@yahoo.com)

May 27, 2010

Honorable Benjamin J. F. Cruz, Vice Speaker  
I Mina'Trenta na Liheslaturan Guahan  
The 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Subject: Bill 389

Dear Senator Cruz:

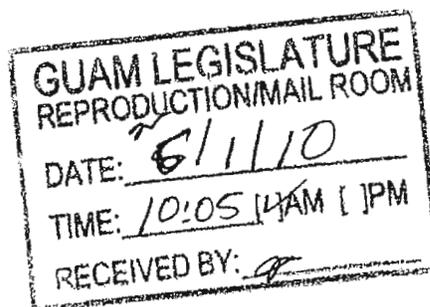
This is to inform you that we are in support of the intent of Bill 389 which would raise the drinking age in Guam to twenty-one (21). At the GNA Annual Nurses' Conference held on May 22, 2010, we collected signatures in support of this bill. Please see enclosure.

We would appreciate if your office could advise us of any public hearing that will be scheduled for this bill.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Santos, BSN, RN  
President, Guam Nurses Association  
[bernsantosrn@yahoo.com](mailto:bernsantosrn@yahoo.com)

Karen Cruz, MPH, RN  
Chairwoman  
Commission on Nursing Leadership, GNA



# Petition to Raise the Drinking Age to 21

Name	Address	Phone No.
1. VICTORIA BAWARES	PO BOX 5296 WGS Station Man.	916-91987
2. KATHLEEN Ho	POB 5296 WGS Station Man.	488-1888
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4. BERNADETTE S. SANTOS	POB 197835 AGANA HTS GU 96919	688-2290
5. Jeremy Lloyd	317 E. San Antonio Ave Deddo	632-1981
6. KRISTINA ESPRITU	473 H. Road Pige subd. Deddo	988-7861
7 Rhona Cabuang	236 N. Chalan Ferry Kaiser Deddo	727-0110
8. Elaine Moreno	800 Poy T. Panian St. mark Gu	988-4627
9. Michelle Ordaz	PO Box 9160 Deddo, Gu	637-1545
10. Rhodora Cruz	PO Box 1142 Hagatna GU	789-0432
11. JOCELYN Delibany	112 E. ANONAS Ct. LIGUAN TOWN.	637-6240
12. JOCELYN ECRU	539 Camelia Lane Little Hights	684-1458
13. GUACAP. ENATE	120 CRESTAVANT Ct. PETAHON	632-7945
14. HARRIETTE. T. VAS	18 Dasco Ct. Perez Acres. Yigo Gu 969	653-1766
15. Kathleen McKinney	310 Ladera Ln #1509, Mangilao, Gu	969-6952
16. Jocelyn D. Cruz	POB 25132 GMF 96921	653 6054
17. Rose Realica	138 Sali Ct. Yigo Cu.	653-3664
18. Eva Losbanes	P.O. Box 25765 Barrigada, Gu 96921	632-7084
19. Jeanette Manibusan Lumbré	P.O. Box 11506 Yigo Gu 96921	969-8280
20. Evangelina A. Manibusan	P.O. Box 2393 Hagatna Gu 96921	735-7109
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22. BAZA, JANE	109 Loma Dr., Santa Rita	898-1024
23. Teresita Taitano	232 Amantes St. Deddo Gu. 96921	632-9128
24. MARY ND MATANAVE	782 Mil Flores Ln, Mang. la 96913	632 2419
25. Gerol Olivares	POB 5379 Hagatna, 96921	565/290
26. Lourdes Vilches	POB 9924 Tamuning Gu 96931	472-9866
27. BACISACA C. MATENAS	POB 4388 AAERIS ISLE Ygo 96929	653-4763
28. FE J. Amuan	KRISTINA LN BAZA Jardons YMA	784-1123
29. Dora Verão	194 Belmont Ave Tamuning, Gu.	649-2292
30. Ann Rios	147 Calle J.L. Blas, Deddo, 96929	633-7867
31. DAVID RUTH CANETE	POB 25847 BARRIGADA GUAM	969-8140
32. NAOMI Agtarap	PO Box 20279 GMF 96921	477-8357
33. Teresa T. Concepcion	151 Chalan Pale Buenas Lago Santa Rita, Gu 96915	727-5176
34. Nela A. Cabrinha	P.O. Box 11234 Tamuning Gu 96931	646-4689
35. Laurent Duques	Box #3 Wc Yigo 96929	653-2013
36. Neriza Brooks	162 Western Blvd Tamuning 96931	646 6589
37. Loma Iolantino	229B Chalan J. Kinabala 96915	565-3845
38. Conchita Mara	POB 25194 GMF Barrigada Gu. 96921	727-9403
39. ROSARIO C. Fernandez	PO BOX 12996 Tamuning	637-6435

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40	Evangelina Allen	P.O. Box 23711 Barrigada, GU	487-6988
41	Veronica B. Alave	P. 9700x 10812 Tamuning, GU	969-0186
42	Nelson Francis	243 Binadan Borakko, Dededo, GU	637-4381
43	Ryan Patrick TONG	116 Misencordia Ct. Dededo GU 9689	777-1127
44	Karen Cruz	P.O. Box 24856 GMF 96921	477-7939
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Dr. Kevin G. Hitosis

Guam Nurses Association

Senator Vicente Pangelinan, Chairman

Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement and Land

324 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 100

Hagatna, Guam 96910

9 June 2010

Dear Honorable Vicente Pangelinan,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a matter that affects all residents of this island community. My name is Kevin Hitosis, a primary care nurse practitioner and a member of the Guam Nurses Association. In my experiences through the years as a medical intensive care nurse and a nurse practitioner in internal medicine, I have witnessed how the harmful effects of alcohol misuse result in various disease conditions in the hospital and the outpatient setting.

As you know, alcohol misuse affects every aspect of our society. The consequences of alcohol misuse results in individual health suffering, economic costs and social damage (Sengupta & Hoyle, 2005). The use of alcohol in Guam has been implicated in violent crime, motor vehicle accidents, and in criminal arrests. In 2005, alcohol related arrests accounted for

32.7% of all adult arrests. Thirty-three percent of murders in Guam were related to the influence of alcohol. In 2006, an island police report indicated an increase in homicides related to increased alcohol consumption at home. Lastly, 44% of 2005 traffic fatalities in Guam were related to alcohol use (Office of Highway Safety, 2006).

These are worrisome statistics given the rising rate of alcohol consumption, the present state of our island's health care system and the anticipated population explosion expected within the next several years. Evidence from the 2007 Guam Substance Abuse Epidemiological Profile shows that 19.5% of adults in Guam binge drink. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks on an occasion. Guam's binge drinking rate is one-third higher compared to men in the United States (Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant, 2007). One may expect a growing trend of alcohol use with an increase in the island's population. And, since the island population is expected to grow by an additional 40,000 individuals within 3 years, the consequences of alcohol use can be expected to jump. At the present, our mental health and substance abuse system is ill prepared to even manage alcohol detoxification, rehabilitation and prevention services today. In 2005, the Guam Legislature could not fund the island's substance abuse program due to a budget shortfall. Since then, alcohol treatment shifted to three non-profit organizations which operate with a smaller budget.

Yet another concern about alcohol use in Guam pertains to epidemiological data on youth consumption. According to the 2007 survey, one-third of high school students consume alcohol. Disaggregated data of ethnicity/race show that Chamorro youth (41.4%) have the highest rate for current and binge drinking, followed by Filipino youth (32.8%) and then Micronesia Islanders. There is also data on alcohol consumption among court-involved youth. The statistics showed that 29.6% of Sanctuary, Inc. youth binge drink versus 25.6% Department of Youth Affairs

(DYA) youth. Data on drinking and driving showed that Sanctuary, Inc youth estimated 13% and DYA was 10% (Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant, 2007).

Alcohol use among Guam's youth correlates to alcohol advertising. Evidence shows that positive perceptions of alcohol are encouraged by alcohol advertising. High school students' perceptions of alcohol use subsequently shape their drinking behavior. According to a study by the World Health Organization in 2005, youth recall of alcohol advertisements at a younger age significantly predicted heavier drinking at age 18. Those who reported positively responding to alcohol advertising at age 18 were heavier drinkers and reported more alcohol-related aggressive behavior at age 21 (World Health Organization, 2006).

The consequences of alcohol misuse impact our island's health, social and economic condition. Very high indirect costs can be attributed to alcohol related injuries or loss of life. Consequently, those who misuse alcohol face years of disability, lost productivity and other benefits of society (Sengupta & Hoyle, 2005). Keeping in mind the current island statistics for alcohol related health problems, crime and property damage, one can only imagine what will happen with the expected population boom in the next three years (Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Office of the Governor, 2005; Office of Highway Safety, 2006; Strategic Prevention Framework – State Incentive Grant, 2007; & World Health Organization, 2006). For these reasons, I believe that island leaders must not waste time in addressing this complex problem. I therefore, whole-heartedly support Bill 389-30, which would increase the Minimum Legal Drinking Age to 21 years old. I believe this is a positive step for improving the health of our island community.

Sincerely,

  
Kevin Hitosis, DNP, FNP- BC

Primary Care Nurse Practitioner

Guam Nurses Association

#### References

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## GUAM ASSOCIATION OF CLUB EXECUTIVES

June 8, 2010

Senator Vincente C. Pangelinan  
Chairperson  
The Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance and Land

Re: Bill 356-30, 357-30, and 389-30

Dear Senator Pangelinan,

Due to prior commitments, I am unable to attend the Public Hearing on the above bills. I do, however, want to enter testimony for the record.

My name is Patrick Nelson. I am the Owner of Club USA, an Adult Nightclub in Guam. I would like to provide some comments on behalf of the Guam Association of Club Executives, which is comprised of 6 Adult Nightclubs in Lower Tumon: Club USA, Club Foxy's, Vikings Tavern, Club 4 Play, Club G Spot, and Dreamgirls. The Guam Association of Club Executives appreciates the Guam Legislature affording us this opportunity to submit testimony regarding Bill 356-30 and 357-30 and 389-30.

The Guam Association of Club Executives fully supports Bill 357-30, pertaining to increased imposition of penalties for violation of the Hours of Sale laws. The Alcohol and Beverage Control Board ("ABC") have tried to enforce current regulations, but unfortunately they are understaffed and possibly under-funded. Members of our organization have filed numerous complaints with ABC against offending establishments, but manpower shortages prevent enforcement from being carried out. Because of the lack of enforcement, and because present penalties are not severe enough, many establishments stay open daily until sunrise. Permitting these establishments to serve alcohol until dawn is dangerous to those who have an early morning schedule, including children waiting for school buses, or walking to school.

Because they are not supposed to be open anyway, these "after hours" establishments are likely underreporting their gross receipts for amounts earned after regular business hours. Furthermore, increased incidence of crime in these establishments makes enforcement an imperative for our community.

The penalties set out by Bill 357-30 are strict enough to deter "after hours" establishments from their illegal behavior. Our hope is that the Guam Police Departments can work together with ABC to enhance enforcement in this area, as they have not often attempted enforcement where ABC has jurisdiction.

Having shown our strong support for Bill 357-30, the Guam Association of Club Executives must take a different position with respect to Bill 356-30. Our organization opposes this Bill, which reduces the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages on weekends and holidays. We believe that the current law on hours of operation is sufficient.

Many customers who frequent establishments open from 2:00 A.M. to 4:00 A.M. on weekends work rotating shifts, or may be military or tourists visiting the island who do not want to be locked in their hotel rooms with nothing to do. Owners of establishments operating within the bounds of the law will lose a noticeable amount of their revenue from the lost weekend business. This loss of revenue poses a financial challenge in the face of enormous utility costs, increasing rent, high freight costs, increasing pay scales, and years of increased taxes on alcohol and beer.

The key is to pass 357-30, and similar enforcement measures, and to step-up enforcement of already existing laws. If new laws are merely piled on, and enforcement is not sufficiently increased, the establishments who follow the law will be at an even greater disadvantage to the "after hours" establishments, creating a race-to-the-bottom which may prompt legitimate owners to consider the illegal "after hours" path, further intensifying the problem that legitimate establishments already face.

Instead of changing hours of operation, the Legislature might consider implementing a licensing regime for establishments which wish to stay open later on the weekends. Notably, other jurisdictions have used later hours of operation as a revenue generating source. Hawaii, for example, offers a "cabaret license", which is an additional cost for owners who wish to stay open after 2:00 A.M., and thereby produces additional revenue for that state.

An alternative option to curtailing hours of operation in the current law is to fine patrons who are consuming alcoholic beverages after hours. This would serve a dual function as a revenue generating measure for Guam, as well as a deterrent to violent and drug-related crimes, since the constant threat of enforcement against patrons for consuming alcohol after hours will make "after hours" establishments a less attractive refuge for the criminal element.

Finally, with regard to Bill 389-30, pertaining to an increase in the drinking age on Guam from 18 to 21, the Guam Association of Club Executives does not support this Bill. The majority of DUI's on Guam are not caused by drivers between 18 and 21, but instead involve drivers in their mid-twenties. While our organization understands that 21 is the drinking age throughout the United

States, we believe 18 year olds are fit to handle the responsibility of safe drinking. On another note, it seems a bit philosophically inconsistent on an island with so much U.S. Military presence to tell many soldiers that they are old enough to serve, but too young to drink.

Should Bill 389-30 be passed, we hope that those within the 18 to 20 age group will still be allowed admittance to bars and clubs. Elsewhere, this is often accomplished through the use of a wristband scheme, wherein patrons have their ID checked at the door, and are then given a wristband if they are of legal age. Anyone without a wristband is unable to drink. This system, and others like it, are used heavily throughout the United States, where the drinking age is 21, but the vast majority of establishments allow admittance to those 18 and over. It could be easily implemented in Guam at a low cost to existing establishments.

Furthermore, should Bill 389-30 be passed, we recommend that those who are already 18 be grandfathered in under the new law. Instead of increasing the drinking age to 21 at the time the bill is passed, the drinking age could increase to 19 on that day, then to 20 the following year, and 21 one year after that. By staggering the increase in drinking age over 3 years, Guam could prevent stripping those presently between the ages of 18 and 20 of their right to drink after it has already been bestowed upon them.

In summation, on behalf of the Guam Association Club Executives, we would respectfully request that the Executive Branch of the Government of Guam be encouraged to increase enforcement of the present hours of operation laws using excellent legislation embodied by Bill 357-30. However, at the same time we would respectfully request that legitimate establishments not be disadvantaged by decreasing already reasonable legal hours of operation. Further, we hope that legislation which is aimed at increasing the drinking age will be evaluated with an eye for the uniqueness of Guam.

We look forward to continuing to build our relationship with the Guam Legislature.

Very Truly Yours,

  
Patrick Nelson



June 7, 2010

30th Guam Legislature  
Attn.: Chair Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan  
324 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 100  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

**Re: Testimony in Support of Bills 356-30 (COR) – Reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages, 357-30 – To stiffen the penalty for violations of the hours of sale prohibition of the alcoholic beverage control law, and 389-30 – Increasing the minimum legal drinking age**

Dear Senator Ben,

Greetings from the physicians and staff members of Health Partners, L.L.C.! We are writing in support of bills 356-30 (COR), 357-30 and 389-30, which respectively address reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages, stiffening the penalty for violations of the hours of sale prohibition of the alcoholic beverage control law, and increasing the minimum legal drinking age on Guam.

Numerous letters of support have outlined the generic evidence for sound policies to control underage drinking and immoderate drinking. We would like to add the local evidence that we have uncovered in our work with Guam's PEACE (substance abuse prevention and control) and Focus on Life (suicide prevention) projects.

- Binge drinking and heavy drinking are significantly higher among Guam adult males as compared to US adult males and are most likely to be reported by younger people. (Source: 2008 BRFSS)
  - Heavy drinking among males on Guam was almost **double the US average**.
  - Males on Guam had a rate of binge drinking that was **65% higher** than men in the US.
- Alcohol-related cancers account for **3 of the top 5 causes of cancer death** on Guam.
- Liver cirrhosis, which is caused by heavy alcohol consumption, is the **9<sup>th</sup>** leading cause of **death** on Guam.
- Arguments due to the influence of alcohol as the cause of **36.4%, or one-third, of murders** in 2006.
- Alcohol was a factor in **44% of 2007 traffic accident fatalities**.

Suite 226 ITC Building, 590 S. Marine Corps Drive  
Tamuning, Guam 96931  
Tel. No. (671) 646-5227 or 5228  
Fax No. (671) 646-5226  
Website: <http://www.healthpartnersguam.com>

- Guam has a markedly **high rate of suicide**, with an average of 1 suicide death every 2 weeks. Over 60% of suicides happen **among younger people**. Of these suicide deaths, **about 30% are associated with the use of alcohol**.

Guam's data indicate that underage drinking and heavy/binge drinking exert a heavy burden on the health and safety of our community. The alcohol-related burden is entirely preventable, and sound policies like Bills 356-30 (COR), 357-30 and 389-30 can contribute significantly to reduce the adverse impact of alcohol abuse.

As health care professionals, we strongly support these bills. We applaud the efforts that you, Senator BJ Cruz and your other colleagues in the Legislature are undertaking to create a healthier future for Guam.

Sincerely,



Annette M. David, MD, MPH  
On behalf of the doctors and staff of Health Partners, L.L.C.



# MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
GUAM CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 3777  
Hagatna, GU 96932  
Phone: (671)647-6233  
Fax: (671)649-1693  
maddguam@guam.net

Testimony In Support of Bill No. 389-30 from Linda Salas, MADD Guam, Chairperson,  
Victim Advocacy

June 8, 2010

30th Guam Legislature  
Attn.: Chair Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear Honorable Chair Pangelinan and Senators of the Guam Legislature,

I am writing in support of proposed legislation, Bill No. 389-30, to increase the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) to 21. This bill will save lives by making Guam's roadways safer for everyone. Responsible citizenship comes with age and by raising the drinking age to 21 you are allowing our children time to develop their sense of community and citizenship.

I support this because as the MADD Guam Chairperson for Victim Advocacy for eight years, I have attended many funerals of victims of this violent crime all because someone took the irresponsible choice of getting behind the wheel intoxicated. The grueling aftermath is dealing with the survivors who have lost their loved ones and that their lives will never be the same. Unfortunately, often I must advocate to victims who are injured or killed. Words cannot express how I relate to a victim during their time of loss and grief, it saddens me to see another human life be taken away.

In 2001, 2.8 million college students drove a car while under the influence of alcohol and there were approximately 119,500 alcohol-related visits to the emergency department involving people under the age of 21. up>[ref.]

In 2007, the U.S. Surgeon General estimates that approximately 5,000 persons under age 21 die from alcohol-related injuries involving underage drinking each year. up>[ref.] These statistics are from the U.S. which possesses a 21 MLDA. Imagine the numbers if alcohol was legal for the 18-21 year old. up>[ref.]

There is no doubt that raising the MLDA to 21 will save lives. I encourage each of you to vote yes and pass bill No. 389-30. Our fellow partners: Guam Police Department, Attorney General's office, doctors and professional advocates can attest to the consequences of impaired driving in Guam on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Drunk Driving is a serious crime that often causes needless deaths and injuries on our roads, yet it can be prevented.



# MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
GUAM CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 3777  
Hagatna, GU 96932  
Phone: (671)647-6233  
Fax: (671)649-1693  
maddguam@guam.net

In summary, raising the MLDA to 21 in Guam will send a powerful message because we will follow the US national standards and we will save lives. I respectfully ask you to support increasing the MLDA to 21. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted electronically,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda B. Salas'.

Linda B. Salas  
Chairperson-Victim Advocacy

Cc: Senators of the 30th Guam Legislature

*MADD's mission is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking. MADD is a 501 (c) (3) charity with approximately 400 affiliate offices and 2 million members and supporters nationwide. Founded in 1980, MADD has helped save more than 300,000 lives. For more information, visit [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org)*

**Barbara S.N. Benavente**  
**287 W. San Antonio Avenue**  
**Dededo, Guam 96929-5209**  
**671-488-6258**

June 7, 2010

Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
Retirement and Land  
30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature  
324 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 100  
Hagatna, Guam 96910

**Reference: Testimony in Support of Bills 356-30 (COR) – Reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages; 357-30 (COR)– To stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale provision of the alcoholic beverage control law, and 389-30 (COR) – Increasing the minimum legal drinking age.**

Dear Senator Pangelinan:

As a concerned private citizen, I submit my personal testimony in support of the above referenced Bills introduced by Senator B.J. Cruz.

I am certain that the proposed legislative measures, when passed, will result in the greatest environmental and health impact that would significantly benefit the people of Guam. I am aware of the consequences of alcohol use and abuse that currently occur on Guam as evident in the official reports provided by the criminal justice systems, health departments and other human services entities. For example, alcohol use is a major factor in 44% of the documented traffic accidents and fatalities in 2007; over 60% of suicides and suicide attempts (a rate of 1 suicide death every two weeks) occur among young people - approximately 30% are associated with alcohol use on Guam

In our personal lives, many of us suffer individually and/or collectively from alcohol abuse and alcoholism; our families' stories aren't often told publicly because of the shame and hurt that we experience and our misguided thinking that the problems associated with alcohol will somehow stop on its own.

Family violence, physical and emotional abuse, and sexual abuse among children and adults are social problems correlated to alcohol abuse. Strong legislative and policy interventions at various environmental levels is seriously needed to break the current cycles of abuse on our island.

For the betterment of our families and the community-at-large, I ask the members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature to support the passage of Bills 356-30 (COR), 357-30 (COR), and 384-30(COR). Each of these laws when put into effect will support individuals, families and village communities by:

- Reducing the hours for when alcoholic beverages can be legally sold – not between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. This measure alone will restrict the availability and access of alcohol sold to all potential buyers and in particular, those individuals who are chemically dependent. The financial resources spent on alcohol may thus be spent on the needs of the buyers' families. The opportunities for alcohol abuse and impaired driving in the early morning hours and heightened family conflict will be reduced.
- Stronger penalties imposed upon licensees found guilty of violating the hours of sale provision of the alcoholic beverage control law will serve as a strong deterrence for alcohol abuse. This legislative measure will require responsibility and accountability by licensed business establishments and their employees.
- Raising the minimum legal drinking age to 21 years will demonstrate full commitment by our Legislators to doing the right thing – to ensure environmental, research-driven legislative measures that will protect individuals, families and the public from further personal injuries, harm unto other individuals and property, and deaths associated with alcohol use and abuse. Guam can no longer afford to disregard what the American Medical Association has reported – research shows that a higher minimum legal drinking age is effective in preventing the onset of alcohol-related deaths and injuries among youth.

The younger an individual is when he or she begins to use and abuse alcohol, the greater the risk for becoming alcohol dependent. Alcohol-related cancers account for three of the top five causes of cancer death on Guam; liver cirrhosis caused by heavy alcohol consumption is the ninth leading cause of death on Guam.

Alcohol abuse intervention must include the imposition of violations such as the revocation of the violator's driver's license, as well as other sanctions that include referrals for treatment. Any individual who has been convicted even for a first violation must be directed into a prevention, early intervention and/or treatment program.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my personal testimony. I do this on behalf of my immediate and extended family members who share the same concern about the burden of alcohol abuse on Guam and its impact on children, youth and families. I ask that all members of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature take these bold steps to pass these Bills which will only improve the wellbeing of our island and people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BB Benavente', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BARBARA S.N. BENAVENTE

Honorable Senator Cruz and fellow senators,

My name is Chen Huang and I am practicing oncologist on Guam since Jan 2010. I am license to practice medicine in CA, GU, Brazil

and I am here to testify in support of MLDA of 21

I graduated from Brasil, where I received my MD from Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. I did residency in Rochester NY and also specialization in Oncology in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

I have total of 15 yrs of training understanding human anatomy and physiology as well as understanding on the risk of alcohol induced cancers; which include head and neck cancers, stomach, esophagus and bladder cancers.

Even though I do not see trauma of alcohol related as far as young adults are concerned in my current practice of oncology. But based my 15-years of training and my internship and my practice I have seen my share of young adults with alcohol related problems as a root of social disintegration.

Years of study and continuous updates with research I can say with confidence that drinking increases the risk of cancer. Also began drinking at age earlier than 21 years of age increases propensity alcohol dependency. Society labels them as alcoholics.

Research has proved an effect of alcohol consumed at early age hinders the growth of brain cells.

I cannot stress enough to you all good senators to vote in favor of MLDA 21, which is only right action to take. Please do not put financial benefits of few in front of saving a single life.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Chen Huang,MD  
CCOG  
416 Chalan San Antonio Road  
Tamuning, Guam, 96913  
Tel 6716474656  
Fax 6716474660

*Maria Teresa C. Lozada  
PMB 21, 535 Chalan Pale RH, Suite 116  
Yigo, Guam 96929  
Tel: 671-653-2096  
Email: terilozada@yahoo.com*

June 9, 2010

**Senator Ben Pangelinan  
Guam 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature  
324 West Soledad Avenue  
Hagatna, Guam 96932**

**Subject: Support of Bill 389-30, Bill 356-30 and Bill 357-30**

Senator Pangelinan,

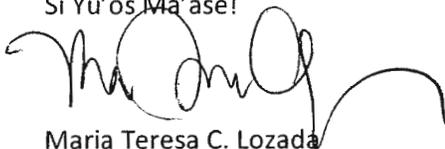
I am writing in support of Bill 356-30 – relative to reducing the hours of which alcohol can be sold, Bill 357-30 – stiffens the penalties for selling alcohol before or after legal hours and Bill 389-30 – to increase the minimum legal drinking age. Alcohol abuse or heavy drinking among youth, young adults and adults is a major public health concern in our community.

Data on the effects of alcohol include directly contributing to liver cirrhosis - the 9<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death on Guam, Alcohol related cancers account for 3 of the 5 top causes of cancer deaths on Guam, 44% of fatalities as alcohol-related; 176 DUI arrests involving individuals under the age of 25; and 30% of suicides are associated with the use of alcohol – with an average of one suicide death occurring every two weeks.

Our community is in desperate need of these legislations significant to improving environmental interventions addressing alcohol abuse and underage drinking.

I thank you, Senator B.J. Cruz and other committee members for addressing these issues and I truly appreciate all the great work being done to address public health issues, not just for my children, but for Guahan.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase!



Maria Teresa C. Lozada

*Peter J. Cruz*  
307 Chalan Canton Tutujan  
Sinajana, Guam 96910

June 09, 2010

**Senator Vincente C. Pangelinan**  
**Guam 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature**  
**324 West Soledad Avenue**  
**Hagatna, Guam 96932**

**Re: Personal Testimonial in Support of Bill 356-30 (COR) relative to reducing the hours of sale for alcoholic beverages; Bill 357-30 (COR) to stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale; and Bill 389-30 (COR) relative to increasing the minimum legal drinking age.**

Honorable Senator Vincente C. Pangelinan,

By the time you read this letter of support on why Bill#356-30, Bill#357-30 and Bill#389-30 should pass, you would have gotten your ear filled on the subject matter.

I do this in hope that you would by now, understand completely that nothing positive occurs from the use of Alcohol. The age discrepancy of the consumption of alcohol sees no barriers.

The development of the human body completes it's self at approximately twenty-five years of age. Any detrimental substances introduce to the body before this age, has a life long affect. Majority of those consequences do not, I repeat, do not, have positive outcomes.

In the many years that you have sat, in your position, as a Senator for the Island of Guanhan, I ask you to recall how many viewings you have paid your respect too. I further ask you, how many of those individual were laid to rest because of the use of Alcohol.

Recent years has Guanhan in many of the health disparity categories. I ask of you to review these three bills and consider the many Social, Financial and Personal issues that are related to the consumption of Alcohol at any age.

Sincerely,

  
Peter J. Cruz

*April Aguon  
Post Office Box 18113  
Umatac, Guam 96915  
Tel: 671-969-8184  
Email: apriljaguon@yahoo.com*

June 9, 2010

**Senator Ben Pangelinan  
Guam 30<sup>th</sup> Legislature  
324 West Soledad Avenue  
Hagatna, Guam 96932**

**Subject: Support of Bill 389-30, Bill 356-30 and Bill 357-30**

Senator Pangelinan,

I am writing in support of Bill 356-30 – relative to reducing the hours of which alcohol can be sold, Bill 357-30 – stiffens the penalties for selling alcohol before or after legal hours and Bill 389-30 – to increase the minimum legal drinking age. These three bills support the efforts of reducing alcohol abuse and underage drinking prevention, of which is a major public health concern on our island.

Alcohol is a major drug problem. Over one-third of our youth are current drinkers and 5% have had their first alcoholic drink at the age of 8 years or younger. Alcohol contributes to 3 of the top 5 causes of cancer deaths on Guam for both males and females. Alcohol has been implicated in criminal arrests, motor vehicle crashes, violent crimes including family violence and suicide. Words cannot convey the loss of innocent lives and life threatening injuries resulting from alcohol abuse – not to mention suffering of families.

Our island is in desperate need to move forward in improving environmental interventions addressing alcohol abuse and underage drinking. The passing of Bill 356-30, Bill 357-30 and Bill 389-30 will be a significant impact relative to health and safety issues on Guam.

I thank you, Senator B.J. Cruz and other committee members for addressing these issues and I truly appreciate all the great work being done to address public health issues, not just for my children, but for Guam.

Thank you!



April Joy Q. Aguon

Dear Senators of the 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature,

I believe that raising the drinking age would not only save lives but improve them as well.

I think the drinking age on Guam should be 21 years old because an 18 year old in many ways is still often an irrational adolescent. They are still too prone to the pressures of their peers and terrible mistakes that can alter their young lives forever.

In high school, kids run purely on their emotions. Drinking can only escalate those emotions and produce dangers, mentally and physically, to themselves and/or to those around them.

Once someone has graduated from high school and grown into their new lives as young adults, their perspective on their world and those around them really begin to open up. Every situation is not under that emotional microscope of high school anymore. This is a time in most lives that they begin to assert themselves in their world. It seems like a much better time for them to be making the decision on whether or not they would like to drink alcohol or not.

We should give the children of Guam a chance to grow, a chance to make adult decisions when they have truly become adults.

Sincerely,

Amy Britton, devoted wife of Senior Airman Robert M. Britton USAF and mother of two children.

 07 June 2010

My name is Natalie Blaz I'm an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Untalan Middle ~~High~~ school. I support bill 389-~~110~~30 to raise the drinking age to 21, because alot of 18 year olds are thinking about drinking instead of thinking about their future plans. I notice that their are more fights when young people drink. When young people drink they drive carelessly, their more violent, and they cause harm to themselves and other people. Raising the drinking age to 21 will stop 18 year olds from buying beer for their younger friends, and give them more time to think about their future plans.

c/o Juanita Blaz  
6884752

Halo adai, My name is Naomi Blaz. I am a Sophomore at George Washington High School. I wanted to write this letter because I want to voice the children of Guam that I support Bill 389-30 to raise the drinking age to twenty-one.

I want this bill to pass because kids our age think when they turn eighteen they think they should drink because their uncles did it or their friends say it's cool, but they should be thinking about their future, college and family.

Kids our age who start drinking at the age eighteen they have a better chance in making bad choices than if they start drinking at twenty-one. Putting the drinking age at twenty-one is smart. I support Bill 389-30.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I really appreciate

% Juanita Blaz  
688 4752

Sincerely,  
Naomi Blaz

Dear Senator,

My name is Brooke Estes. I am 15 and in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. I am a Steers woman for the Southern High outrigger paddling team Tuninos Haya. As an athlete and also a team leader I know that alcohol can negatively affect the performance of an athlete and also an entire team. By supporting this bill I want to be a positive representation to and for my team within the southern community.

Thank you,  
Brooke Estes

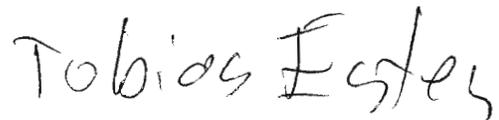
June 9, 2010

Dear Senator,

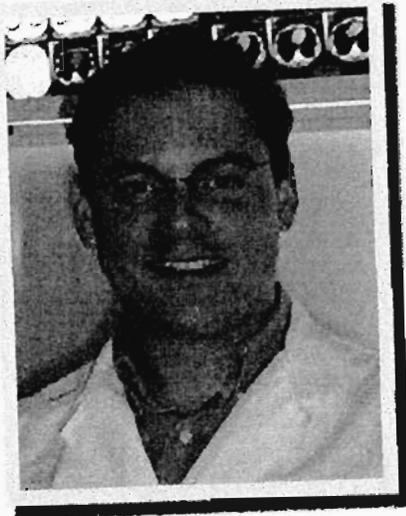
Hello. My name is Tobias Estes. I am 13 years old. I live in Harmon, upper Tumon area. In my neighborhood there are teens who abuse alcohol. It causes the whole neighborhood problems. Last summer the police were called in almost every day and sometimes three times a day. These teens caused some big problems. I think this bill will help a lot. Please support the bill to raise the legal drinking age to 21.

Thanks,

Tobias Estes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tobias Estes". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

# Support Our Military by Raising the Drinking Age to 21



Nathaniel Berg,  
MD  
Former Major,  
United States  
Army Medical  
Corps, Former  
Army Doctor  
Stationed at the  
U.S. Naval Hospi-  
tal, Guam

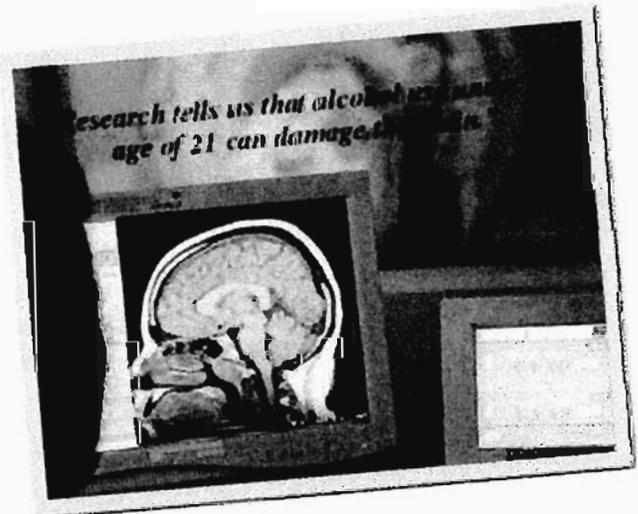
I write not as a doctor but as a former military officer. During the 13 years I served as an officer in the United States Army, including four years on Guam, I can state from first hand experience that alcohol use by those under 21 clearly has a negative impact on troop readiness.

We all recognize (or should ) the courage, sacrifice and patriotism of our younger soldiers, sailors and airmen. The readers of the PDN also know of the higher likelihood of younger individuals to turn altercations into physical confrontations and how this is much more likely when alcohol has been used. Remove alcohol and the clearer mind has an improved ability to do its job and think rather than react.

One can not magically mature and gain the experience of a 21 year old by joining the military. Sadly, while stationed on Guam I witnessed alcohol use contribute to fights, destruction of marriages, motor vehicle accidents, child abuse, poor job performance and the ruining of many military careers. Without question this occurred in those under 21 more often than in older military personnel. Alcohol use by younger dependents was often contributory.

My experience has been shared by many military officers and senior enlisted members as reflected in the current order in place restricting alcohol use by Marines and Airmen in Okinawa. The directive is clear: "persons subject to this order, who are under 21 years of age, shall not consume alcoholic beverages". The military leadership recognizes that reasonably delaying the opportunity for legal consumption of alcohol by this impressionable age group while aligning the legal drinking age with the vast majority of U.S. jurisdictions is appropriate. Our local leaders should support efforts to promote responsible use of alcohol and deter abuse. Raising the drinking age on Guam to 21 years will surely aid in this effort and improve troop readiness.

Those who argue that being able to die for your country at 18 should translate into an ability to buy alcohol fail to recognize that the ability to die and fight for our country is universal and not restricted to those on active duty. Our country's founding fathers knew that maturity comes only with time. Although one may join the military at 18, they must still wait an additional 17 years before they are eligible to run for president of the country they serve.



# Support for MLDA of 21

## *We Need A True Under 21 Prevention Program*



*Dr. Luis Cruz, MD*  
Graduate FD High School  
Guam

"We should all support this a drinking age of 21. It's good for Guam..."

Guam is my home and I want to do what I can to help improve my community -- this is the reason I went into medicine in the first place.

Growing up on Guam, I know the problems with underage drinking first hand.

The biggest problem with underage drinking for Guam is the lack of a real underage prevention program, a program that's geared toward those who are under the age of 21. I am disappointed that the Guam Legislature has not passed a law to increase the drinking age. They should know that evidence from federal agencies have clearly proven its benefits. I am happy that our people have been empowered and will not depend on our lawmakers to do the right thing.

I am absolutely in full support of our people taking the first step in empowering ourselves to take control of our alcohol environment by voting "yes" for a legal drinking age of 21. Once this law is changed to 21, we can then truly implement an underage drinking prevention program that's in line with national policy.

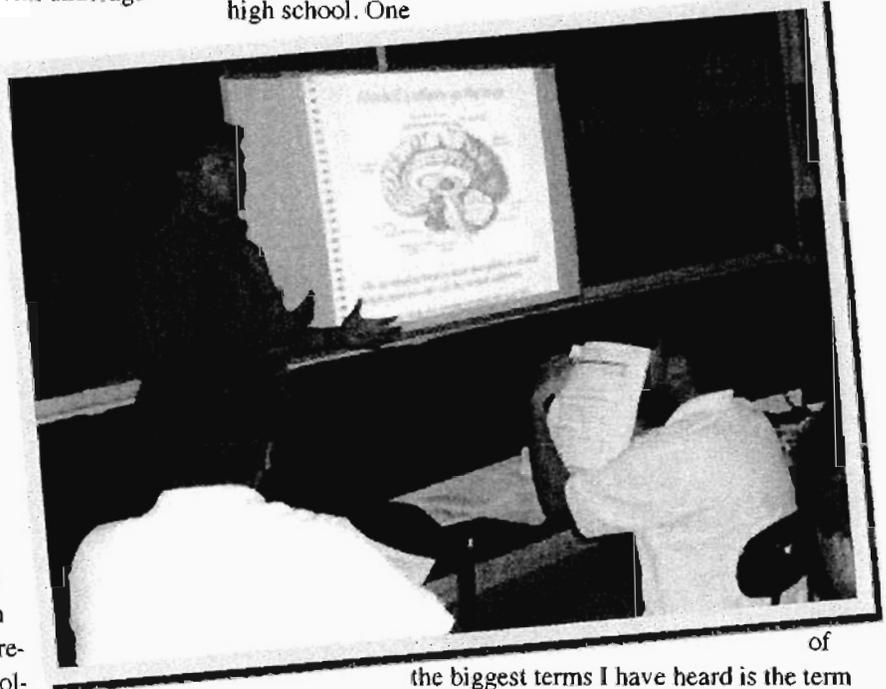
In fact, one of the strategies listed by the Health and Human Services of the United States is to ensure that all states and territories have a drinking age law of 21. Guam must adopt this important intervention.

Furthermore, we cannot ignore the obvious health impact on Guam due to alcohol. Especially with the most recent research that shows clear evident that the brain development continues through age 21, and that the earlier a person drinks alcohol, their risk of alcohol abuse and alcoholism increases exponentially.

Our people need to understand that the lives lost due to alcohol cannot be ignored and cannot be justified with others' arguments about their right to drink, military, or economics. There should be no conflicts of interest when it comes to saving lives.

If we can prevent underage drinking by changing our mentality about alcohol and insist that our people not to take the first drink until the age of 21, we will improve the health and quality of life for generations to come.

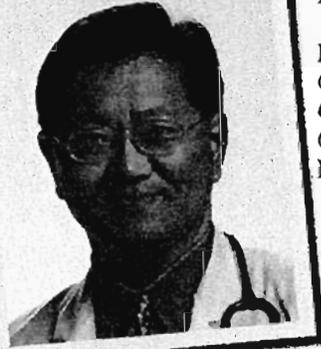
Yes, parents do play a big role in educating their kids to make the right choices. However, we all know that it takes much more than parental guidance. There's peer pressure in high school. One



of the biggest terms I have heard is the term "designated buyers" -- those who are 18 and 19 years old who are still in high school are often called to buy the beer and bring them to parties. This access can be decreased by increasing the drinking and purchasing age to 21.

Lastly, we must support this change if we really care about our children's future.

# MLDA 21 Law Is About Responsibility & Education



Dr. Thomas Shieh, MD

Fellow, American  
College of Obstetric &  
Gynecology; Former Navy  
Officer, Father of Two and  
Husband

## “IT’S BECAUSE WE CARE...”

There is overwhelming evidence that a drinking age of 21 plays a critical part in a comprehensive program in the prevention of not only underage drinking, but in the prevention of alcohol abuse in the older generations.

Those who say, “Education is the key,” should be supporting a drinking age of 21. MLDA 21 is not just a national law in all 50 states, it’s the key to alcohol abuse education, and we have taken an active role in this educational process on alcohol. Our doctors have gone to several schools, 3 village community centers, held many community health fairs, educated businesses, rotary clubs, and written several articles in the media educating about the effects of alcohol. Therefore, our doctors are not just talking about alcohol education; we are actively doing it already.

That said, there has been a lot of discussion and education on the prevention of underage drinking and the effects of alcohol. Let us remember that the true national definition of underage drinking is under 21 and one of the key prevention strategies is to set the drinking age at 21 as noted by our U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control, and our U.S. Surgeon General. Guam should follow this directive along with education.

Please also keep in mind that we are not just focusing on the prevention of drunk drivers, the benefits of raising the drinking age to 21 are much broader. It is the entire social consequences related to alcohol, and research has proven that if we delay a person from drinking alcohol until they

are 21, we will have a positive impact on the health and welfare of the entire community.

The recent town hall meeting on underage drinking was a success thanks to everyone who was involved. The intent of the video shown by Dr. Vincent Akimoto was to show you a victim’s ordeal and how her will to survive motivated others. Not everyone who gets hit by a drunk driver dies, but sometimes the end result is as destructive regardless of the age of the driver or the victim.

Regarding enforcement, by raising the drinking age to 21, we can then implement a true underage drinking prevention program which will allow Guam to receive additional federal highway funds, which can be directed to help our police officers and highway safety officials with more resources for enforcement.

There are others who commented about teenagers being rebellious, that if we make it harder for them to buy alcohol, they will rebel? That’s not a reason for keeping the drinking age at 18. A drinking age law of 21 exists for public safety, good health reasons, and will reinforce our message about alcohol and true underage drinking. In addition, alcohol free sports and teen events will help as well. I have personally supported the youths on Guam with sporting and educational events and scholarships with the emphasis on a drug and alcohol free environment; this is all part of the educational process and guidance for our youths.

Some may use the military to argue against the drinking age of 21. I am proud of the “Right Spirit Campaign” by the military to deglorify alcohol. Please remember that patriotism for our country is not the same as patriotism for alcohol. When our soldiers serve our country, rewarding them with alcohol in their hands will only cause more harm. Let’s reward them by making sure that they have a job to return to, making sure that they are safe and healthy, and making sure their families are well cared for. Let’s get the right spirit and support our troops the right way.

Finally, I can tell you from my experience of being a teenager, a husband, a military officer, a father and a doctor, raising the drinking age to 21 will help our island. I want the people, especially the youths of Guam to know that I care about them. If I did not, I could have just turned away from this issue and not be as passionate as I am about it.

# Studies Support Raising The Drinking Age to 21



Juan M. Rapadas, Ph.D.  
Clinical Psychologist,  
Adjunct Professor of  
Psychology, UOG De-  
partment of Youth Af-  
fairs

The answer to the forum question is a no-brainer ... this coming November, please vote to increase Guam's drinking age to 21. Doing this one act will go a

long way to help reduce the incidence of underage drinking on Guam.

If there is one act of community conscience that you can do without much effort, thought or cost, it would be to vote for the Coalition 21-led initiative to raise Guam's drinking age to 21. The organizers behind the coalition should be congratulated for their successful efforts and hard work to get this issue on the ballot.

Over the last few years, we have made a very compelling argument for the MLDA 21 in the media, and especially where dozens of studies are cited to support the increase in the drinking age.

One of the studies cited was a 2004 SAMHSA report that found, of the 14 million adults age 21 and older who were classified as having alcohol dependence, 13 million, or 95 percent, of them started drinking before age 21. This statistic is telling in that the majority of adult dependent alcoholics probably first drank heavily as a young person.

In a study by Wechsler and colleagues in 1992, it was found that high school binge drinking (defined by having five or more drinks in a row) was a major predictor of college binge drinking. This study illustrates the persistence of alcohol behaviors over the life of individuals and how difficult it is to stop drinking if one starts to drink early in life.

That is why programs like the Juvenile Drug Court, the adolescent drug and alcohol program at DMHSA, and the in-patient drug and alcohol program at Sanctuary are essential community partners in the fight against underage drinking.

Recently, the Guam Psychological Association, of which I am the president-elect, agreed to join Coalition 21's other community partners in helping pass the initiative. As scientists and practitioners in the field of human behavioral science, psychologists can help to uniquely contribute to the dialogue between the community and Coalition 21.

One other study of note, as cited in Coalition 21's Web page, was by the NIAAA in 1997, which found that parents' drinking behavior and favorable attitudes about drinking have been positively associated with adolescents' initiating and maintaining drinking behaviors. This study states the obvious -- that if parents drink and they have a nonchalant attitude about drinking, more than likely their children will be vulnerable and susceptible to consume alcohol at an early age.

As is the custom in many of my PDN articles, parents do not get off easy. Do not model drinking behaviors for your children, period!

Oftentimes a drunken-driving death, which is still generally a rare occurrence, grabs headlines and helps mobilize the community. However, the domestic, sexual and emotional abuse, and overall human suffering, that occurs as a result of drunken individuals is incalculable and happens many more times a day than the headline-grabbing drunken driver. Much of the crimes in the PDN police blotter involve alcohol and substance abuse, and every day our community pays a staggering cost.

Never was the phrase "an ounce of prevention is equal to a pound of cure" more apropos than when it comes to reducing the incidence of underage drinking. A passage for MLDA of 21 would be one of the first and best steps that can hopefully lead to less underage and overage drinkers, ultimately leading to less incidences of abuse in all sectors of Guam's community. In the long run, MLDA of 21 will save money and, more importantly, it will save lives.



## *"It Takes More Than Parents..."*

*"There are people who say that you can join the military, get married and do other stuff at 18. But what does all that have to do with drinking alcohol? Think about it; be smart. Alcohol drinking does not help you make better decisions; it does not make you think faster or smarter; it does not make you a better soldier; and it does not make you a better student." Joycelyn Kaipat Mendiola, Aunty*



## *"Why Is Guam Still 18?"*

I came to Guam from Saipan not to be a tourist but to attend the rosary and funeral of my nephew, Shawn Mendiola Castro. He died because of alcohol. I did not know that the drinking age was only 18 on Guam. That shocked me. On Saipan it is 21. In the United States it is 21. Why does Guam still have a drinking age of 18? This I don't understand at all.

What's happening here on Guam is that an 18-year-old can buy alcohol and then go to parties with 15-year-olds and bring beer. I also heard that people are blaming the parents for their kids' drinking of alcohol. We should also blame the drinking age for being low. We all know that growing up in today's world is very difficult. We can tell our kids don't drink, but look at all the

alcohol advertising on Guam -- there are so many on the streets and in the villages. This has to stop.

If we are going to blame the parents, we need to also blame the alcohol companies that just want to make money and put up all those ads. Maybe this is the reason why many of them don't want the drinking age to be 21. The more people drink, including the young ones, the more money they make. All the money in the world will not bring back my nephew.

There are people who say that you can join the military, get married and do other stuff at 18. But what does all that have to do with drinking alcohol? Think about it; be smart. Alcohol drinking does not help you make better decisions; it does not make you think faster or smarter; it does not make you a better soldier; and it does not make you a better student.

Guam must raise the drinking age to 21. Why? Because laws are there to protect us, to protect the innocent. Even if we teach our kids not to drink, we cannot prevent others from drinking and then hurting other people. Parents need help, our kids need help and I believe if we tell our young adults and kids not to drink until they are 21, they will be more responsible.

What I want to do is to make sure what happened to us won't happen to others. I will spread the word that alcohol is bad for you and if you decide to drink, don't drink until you are 21. We all need to teach our children, but we also must change the law. We all should support raising the drinking age on Guam to 21.



## Learn: "Alcohol Took My Son Away"

*"Please, I want to tell them that please don't wait until it hits you at home because I don't want you to go through the pain that our family is going through right now. It's a pain that you wouldn't want to go through. I tried losing a mother, sisters, but losing your own child is like half of your heart is missing." Rita Castro, Mother*

*"Every morning knowing that my son is gone sometimes makes me want to follow him, but lucky I always ask the lord to make me strong for the rest of my kids. Please, raising the drinking age to 21 will really help our children be safe."*



July 30, 1989 - March 19, 2006

I cry for the loss of my son. I cry for him every day and I wish I could turn back the clock, but I cannot. I hope that all the parents and all the children of Guam learn and remember what killed my son was alcohol. Shawn was a wonderful loving son, caring and strong.

No matter what parents do to talk to their kids about the alcohol, sometimes it just doesn't work. He was only 16 years old.

I want to let people know that I support raising the drinking age to 21. Raising the drinking age will not kill anyone. It will help because 21-year-olds are not in high school anymore so it would be harder for them to give alcohol to those who are younger. Also, raising the age of drinking to 21 will send out a message that alcohol is not good for the younger people. This law will help us parents and teachers.

There are people out there who don't believe me when I say to them that it takes more than parents. Parents are important, but raising the age to 21 is also important. I want to tell them that please don't wait until it hits you at home because I don't want you to go through the pain that our family is going through right now. I dream of Shawn coming home, only to wake up in tears. As a mother, this pain will never go away.

I just wanted people to understand that it will take more than parents to prevent alcohol from getting to our kids.



## Get The Facts

Did you know...

*"Among the 14 millions adults aged 21 or order who were classified as having past year alcohol dependence or abuse, more than 13 million (95 percent) had started using alcohol before age 21."*

(SAMHSA, 2004)

\*The annual employer cost of motor vehicle crashes in which at least one driver was impaired by alcohol exceeds \$9 billion. (NHTSA, 2003)

\*Mandatory server training saves about \$200 per driver in medical, non-medical and quality of life costs, but costs only \$59 per driver – a savings of more than three to one. (Miller, 2001)

\*Financially, zero tolerance laws are estimated to save 22 times what they cost to implement. (Miller, 2001)

\*Financially, .08 BAC laws are estimated to save 14 times what they cost to implement. (Miller, 2001)

\*Costs for people involved in crashes who were not wearing safety belts were 55 percent higher than those who were. Up to 85 percent of these costs are borne by society, not the individual involved in the crash. (NHTSA, 2003) This is why the financial benefits of upgrading to a primary belt law are 16 times greater than the costs. (Miller, 2001)

\*Studies have consistently found that the societal savings from checkpoints significantly outweigh the initial investment. One study found that there was an average cost savings of \$50,000 per checkpoint, including over \$3,000 in medical costs. (Mercer, et al, 1996) Another found a \$6 benefit for every \$1 invested. (Miller, et al, 1998) (Miller, 2001) A third found a \$23 benefit for every \$1 invested. (Stuster and Blowers, 1995)

\*In 2000, alcohol-related crashes accounted for an estimated 18% of the \$103 billion in U.S. auto insurance payments. Reducing alcohol-related crashes by 10% would save \$1.8 billion in claims payments and loss adjustment expenses. (Taylor, Miller, and Cox, 2002)

\*In 2000, the average alcohol-related fatality in the United States costs \$3.5 million. The estimated cost per injured survivor was \$99,000. (Taylor, Miller, and Cox, 2002)

\*In 2000, the societal costs of alcohol-related crashes in the United States averaged \$1.00 per drink consumed. People other than the drinking driver paid \$0.60 per drink. (Taylor, Miller, and Cox, 2002)

\*Alcohol-related crashes in the United States cost the public an estimated \$114.3 billion in 2000, including \$51.1 billion in monetary costs and an estimated \$63.2 billion in quality of life losses. People other than the drinking driver paid \$71.6 billion of the alcohol-related crash bill, which is 63 percent of the total cost of crashes. (Taylor, Miller, and Cox, 2002)

\*Underage drinkers are susceptible to immediate consequences of alcohol use, including blackouts, hangovers, and alcohol poisoning and are at elevated risk of neurodegeneration (particularly in regions of the brain responsible for learning and memory), impairments in functional brain activity, and the appearance of neurocognitive defects. Heavy episodic or binge drinking impairs study habits and erodes the development of transitional skills to adulthood. (Zeigler, 2004)

\*Teens who drink are significantly more likely to sell illegal drugs; 27.9% of 12-17 year olds who reported heavy use of alcohol reported selling illegal drugs in the past year, compared with 6.2% who reported using alcohol in the past month and only .8% of those who reported no use of alcohol in the past year. (SAMHSA, 2005)

\*Teens who drink are significantly more likely to carry a handgun; 12.4% of 12-17 year olds who reported heavy use of alcohol reported carrying a handgun in the past year, compared with 4.7% who reported using alcohol in the past month and only 2.4% of those who reported no use of alcohol in the past year. (SAMHSA, 2005)

\*Among college students ages 18–24 from 1998 to 2001, alcohol-related unintentional injury deaths increased from nearly 1600 to more than 1700, an increase of 6% per college population. (Hingson et al, 2005)

\*Eighteen percent of US college students suffered from clinical significant alcohol-related problems in the past year, compared with 15 percent of their non-college-attending peers. College students were also more likely to be diagnosed as alcohol abusers than their non-college-attending peers. (Slutske, 2005)

\*Six percent of college students have been diagnosed as alcohol dependent and nearly one-third of students would be given an alcohol abuse diagnosis under psychiatric criteria. Forty-four percent of students reported at least one symptom of either abuse or dependence. (Knight, 2002)

\*Each year, drinking by college students, ages 18-24, contributes to an estimated 1,700 student deaths, almost 600,000 injuries, almost 700,000 assaults, more than 90,000 sexual assaults, and 474,000 engaging in unprotected sex. In 2001, 2.8 million college students drove a car while under the influence of alcohol. (Hingson et al, 2005)

\*Among the 14 millions adults aged 21 or older who were classified as having past year alcohol dependence or abuse, more than 13 million (95 percent) had started using alcohol before age 21. (SAMHSA, 2004)

\*Underage alcohol use is more likely to kill young people than all illegal drugs combined. (Grunbaum et al, 2002) (Young et al, 2002)

\*US purchase surveys show that 40 to 90 percent of outlets sell to underage buyers, and that this stems from low and inconsistent levels of enforcement against adults who sell or provide alcohol. (Forster, et al, 1995) (Grube, 1997) (Wagenaar and Wolfson, 1995)

\*77 percent of high school seniors have used alcohol; in comparison, 53 percent have smoked cigarettes; 46 percent have used marijuana, and 8 percent have used cocaine. (Johnston, et al, 2005)

\*In 2003, 5 percent of students in grades 9–12 had at least one drink of alcohol on school property in the 30 days prior to a national alcohol survey, and 45 percent of students had at least one drink somewhere. (DeVoe, et al, 2004)

\*Traffic crashes are the number one killer of teens and over one-third of teen traffic deaths are alcohol-related. (NHTSA, 2004)

\*In 2002 and 2003, 4.2 million people (21 percent) aged 16 to 20 reported DUI involving either alcohol or illicit drugs in the previous year. Seventeen percent report DUI involving alcohol, fourteen percent reported DUI involving illicit drugs, and eight percent reported DUI involving alcohol and other drugs. (SAMHSA, 2004)

\*Of the 4.2 million people aged 16 to 20 in 2002 and 2003 who reported DUI involving alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year, approximately four percent (169,000 people) indicated they had been arrested and booked for DUI. (SAMHSA, 2004)

\*Research studies have found that exposure to and liking of alcohol advertisements affect young people's beliefs about drinking, intentions to drink, and actual drinking behavior. (Martin, et al, 2002)

\*Forty-four percent of eighth graders have tried alcohol and 20 percent of eighth graders have been drunk at least once. (Johnston, et al, 2005)

\*Eleven percent of eighth graders, 22 percent of tenth graders, and 29 percent of twelfth graders drank heavily (over five drinks in one sitting) in the two weeks preceding a national alcohol survey. (Johnston, 2005)

\*Alcohol has been tried by 44 percent of eighth graders, 64 percent of tenth graders, and 77 percent of twelfth graders; active use is also widespread. (Johnson, et al, 2005)

\*Over 94 percent of twelfth graders, 84 percent of tenth graders, and 65 percent of eighth graders report that alcohol is "very easy" or "fairly easy" to get. (Johnson et al, 2005)

\*The median age at which Americans begin drinking is 15.9 years old. (SAMHSA, 2003)

\*Only 31 percent of parents of 15- to 16-year-olds believe their child had a drink in the past year, compared to the 60 percent of teens in that age group who reported drinking. (Hart Research Associations, 2003)

\*High school students who drank before the age of 13 years were highest among African Americans at 31.2 percent. Among Hispanics, 30.2 percent drank before age 13 and, among Caucasians, 25.7 percent drank before age 13. (CDC, 2003)

\*Over two out of every five of all college students are binge drinkers. (SAMHSA, 2004) (Weschler, et al, 2002)

\*In 2001, there were approximately 119,500 alcohol-related visits to the emergency department involving people under the age of 21. (Elder, 2004)

\*Over 6000 people died in 2002 from underage-drinking-related causes (alcohol-related traffic fatalities, homicides, suicides, and other unintentional injuries). Over 2200 of these were alcohol-related traffic fatalities. (Hingson and Kenkel, 2004)

\*In a recent survey, Hispanic students (36.4 percent) were significantly more likely than Caucasian students (28.5 percent) to have ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. Overall, 30.2 percent of students have ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. (CDC, 2003)

\*A recent study reflected 12.9 percent of Caucasian high school students drove after drinking alcohol, compared to 11.7 percent for Hispanic and 9.1 percent for African Americans. Overall, 12.1 percent of students have ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. (CDC, 2003)

\*In a recent survey, Hispanic students (38.3 percent) were significantly more likely than Caucasian students (30.2 percent) to have ridden with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. (CDC, 2001)

\*Parents' drinking behavior and favorable attitudes about drinking have been positively associated with adolescents' initiating and continuing drinking. (NIAAA, 1997)

\*People reporting first use of alcohol before age 15 were more than five times more likely to have past year alcohol dependence or abuse compared with people who first used alcohol at age 21 or older. (SAMHSA, 2004)

\*An early age of drinking onset is associated with alcohol-related violence not only among persons under age 21 but among adults as well. (Hingson et al, 2001)

- \*Approximately one fifth (22.9 percent) of persons aged 12 or older participated in binge drinking at least once in the 30 days prior to an alcohol use survey. (SAMHSA, 2004)
- \*Approximately one fifth (22.9 percent) of persons aged 12 or older participated in binge drinking at least once in the 30 days prior to an alcohol use survey. (SAMHSA, 2004)
- \*About 10.7 million people age 12 to 20 years reported current use of alcohol in 2001 - 28.8 percent of this age group for whom alcohol is an illicit substance. Of these, nearly 7.2 million or 19.3 percent were binge drinkers and 2.3 million or 6.2 percent were heavy drinkers. (SAMHSA, 2004)
- \*About 1 in 7 Americans aged 12 or older in 2002 (33.5 million persons) drove under the influence of alcohol at least once in the 12 months prior to the interview. Among young adults aged 18 to 25 years, 26.6 percent drove under the influence of alcohol. (SAMHSA, 2004)
- \*In 2003, 28 percent of the young male drivers involved in fatal crashes had been drinking at the time of the crash, compared with 13 percent of the young female drivers involved in fatal crashes. (NHTSA, 2004)
- \*In 2003, 25 percent of 15- to 20-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking. Nineteen percent were intoxicated. (NHTSA, 2004)
- \*In 2003, 65 percent of young drivers (15 to 20 years old) of passenger vehicles involved in fatal crashes who had been drinking were unrestrained. Of the young drivers who had been drinking and were killed, 74 percent were unrestrained. (NHTSA, 2004)
- \*The highest prevalence of both binge and heavy drinking in 2002 was for young adults aged 18 to 25, with the peak rate occurring at age 21. The rate of binge drinking was 40.9 percent for young adults and 50.2 percent at age 21. (SAMHSA, 2004)
- \*Drinking reduces the number of hours spent studying per day among college students. Each additional drink per occasion is associated with fifteen minutes less studying per day. (Williams, Powell, and Wechsler, 2002)
- \*About 91 percent of all drinks consumed by teenagers are consumed by those who drink heavily. (Biglan, et al, 2003)
- \*As a result of their drinking, about 25 percent of college students report academic consequences, 11 percent report they have damaged property under the influence of alcohol, and 5 percent are involved with police or campus security. (NIAAA, 2002)
- \*Each additional drink consumed by college students per occasion increased the probability of missing a class by 8 percent and getting behind in school by 5 percent. (Williams, Powell, and Wechsler, 2002 )
- \*Each additional drink consumed by college students per occasion increased the probability of missing a class by 8 percent and getting behind in school by 5 percent. (Williams, Powell, and Wechsler, 2002 )
- \*Underage drinkers are responsible for between 10 and 20 percent of all alcohol consumed in the United States. (NAS, 2003)
- \*Access to an unlimited amount of alcohol for a flat fee increases the number of drinks in a sitting by 1.6 drinks on average. (Powell, Williams, and Wechsler, 2002)
- \*Six percent of college have been diagnosed as alcohol dependent and nearly one-third of students who be given an alcohol abuse diagnosis under psychiatric criteria. Forty-four percent of students reported at least one symptom of either abuse or dependence. (Knight, et al, 2002)
- \*The total cost attributable to the consequences of underage drinking was more than \$53 billion per year in 1998 dollars. (Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, 1999)
- \*Research continues to show that young drivers between 15 and 20 years old are more often involved in alcohol-related crashes than any other comparable age group. Alcohol-crash involvement rates, share of the alcohol-crash problem and alcohol-crash risk all reach their peaks with young drivers, with the peaks for fatal crashes occurring at age 21. (NHTSA, 2001)
- \*Based on the latest mortality data available, motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people from 15 to 20 years old. (NHTSA, 2003)
- \*Teenagers are not well informed about alcohol's effects. Nearly one-third of teens mistakenly believe that a 12-ounce can of beer contains less alcohol than a standard shot of distilled spirits. (American Academy of Pediatrics, 1998)
- \*Students who attended schools with high rates of heavy drinking experienced a greater number of secondhand effects, including disruption of sleep or studies; property damage; and verbal, physical, or sexual violence. (Wechsler et al, 2002)
- \*A College Alcohol Survey of four colleges indicated that binge-drinking levels are associated with ease of access to alcohol, price, special promotions, and outlet density in college communities. (Wechsler et al, 2002)
- \*Binge drinking has been defined as at least five drinks in a row for men and four drinks in a row for women. (Wechsler et al, 2002)
- \*High school binge drinking is a major predictor of binge drinking in college. (Wechsler et al, 2002)
- \*In 2001, approximately 44 percent of college students reported binge drinking, according to a college survey. This percentage is almost identical to rates in three previous surveys. (Wechsler et al, 2002)
- \*Findings from four studies have quantified the crash risk associated with teenage drivers transporting teenage passengers. Collectively, these studies indicate that the presence of passengers strongly increases crash risk for teenage drivers; the more passengers the greater the risk. (Williams, December 2001)
- \*Each year, college students spend approximately \$5.5 billion on alcohol- more than they spend on soft drinks, milk, juice, tea, coffee and books combined. (Drug Strategies, 1999)
- \*More than 40 percent of individuals who start drinking before the age of 13 will develop alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence at some point in their lives. (Grant, B.F et al, 1997)
- \*The highest prevalence of both binge and heavy drinking in 2000 was for young adults aged 18 to 25, with the peak rate occurring at age 21. (SAMHSA, 2000)



## “Life Is Priceless”

---

*“I urge all parents, teachers, guardians, lawmakers, alcohol company executives, bar/restaurant owners, skeptics and all of Guam's voting community members to take a stand by getting educated on the benefits of increasing the drinking age.” Michelle S.N. Sasamoto, Mother*

---

My memories of growing up on Guam are so vivid, especially those of family gathering and fiestas. I can fondly recall my uncles hanging out by the homemade barbecue pit with a can of beer in hand. I also remember times when the uncles instructed the younger cousins to bring more beer for the adults. At that time, it was a lifestyle and culturally accepted behavior that eventually passed on to the younger cousins, who have grown to be fathers who now hand out at the barbecue pit instructing their own children to “get a can of beer for daddy.”

By asking our young children to fetch beer for us, we are unconsciously condoning and encouraging the behavior of underage drinking. Parents, we must be mindful about our roles and examples that we set for our children as they think of us as heroes. Although times have changed on Guam, many adult behaviors still remain that are affecting our children. By altering my family's lifestyle about the behaviors associated with alcohol, my 5-year-old daughter understands that she may not act upon the request of getting alcoholic beverages for older relatives. She also makes loved ones aware that drugs (which to her are cigarettes and alcohol) are not allowed at her birthday parties.

It is never too early to start preventing the use and abuse of such substances. Parents, you have the power to empower Guam's youth about making positive life decisions, and alcohol does not have to be a part of that empowerment.

I am so impressed with the wealth of information and data we have today to make an informed decision about underage drinking. Without a doubt, I would definitely say yes to increase Guam's drinking and purchasing alcohol age to 21. I urge all parents, teachers, guardians, lawmakers, alcohol company executives, bar/restaurant owners, skeptics and all of Guam's community members to take a stand by getting educated on the benefits of increasing the drinking age.

I can think of endless reasons to oppose the age increase, but my one good reason stands above the rest -- my 5-year-old daughter, whose life is priceless. Adults, I invite all of you to make a difference in the lives of Guam's future leaders. Please increase the legal drinking and purchasing age of alcohol to 21.

# GUAM'S TEEN DRINKER...



Vote to protect Guam's teenagers.

Vote yes to MLDA 21

Stop supporting teen alcohol sales, and stop endorsing teen drinking.



legally, your Guam teen is old enough to drink.

Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for America's young people. More than 10 million youth, ages 12 to 20, report drinking alcohol in the past month.

The American Medical Association considers this an epidemic worth investing resources now, to prevent the costly social and physical consequences in the future.

(Source: *Partner or Prey: The Alcohol Industry, Youth Alcohol Problems, and Alcohol Policy Strategies* policy briefing paper, American Medical Association, 2002)

*Brochure supports the opinions of parents, visitors, families and professionals who vote to protect Guam's heritage and future.*



IT MAY BE  
LEGAL, BUT  
IT'S NOT  
PRETTY



Protect Guam's teenagers. Vote yes to MLDA 21

**Bureau of Budget & Management Research  
Fiscal Note of Bill No. 356-30**

**AN ACT TO AMEND §3414 OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 3, TITLE 11 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED; RELATIVE TO REDUCING HOURS OF SALE FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.**

**Department/Agency Appropriation Information**

Dept./Agency Affected: Department of Revenue & Taxation	Dept./Agency Head: Artemio B. Ilagan
Department's General Fund (GF) appropriation(s) to date:	\$9,592,193
Department's Other Fund (Specify) appropriation(s) to date: \$755,482 (Tax Collection Enhancement Fund) / \$1,542,232 (Better Public Service Fund)	\$2,297,714
<b>Total Department/Agency Appropriation(s) to date:</b>	<b>\$11,889,907</b>

**Fund Source Information of Proposed Appropriation**

	General Fund:	Other:	Total:
FY 2010 Adopted Revenues	\$540,218,638	\$112,566,011	\$652,784,649
FY 2010 Appro. (P.L. 30-55 thru 30-112)	(\$540,228,724)	(\$120,120,186)	(\$660,348,910)
Sub-total:	(\$10,086)	(\$7,554,175)	(\$7,564,261)
Less appropriation in Bill	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>(\$10,086)</b>	<b>(\$7,554,175)</b>	<b>(\$7,564,261)</b>

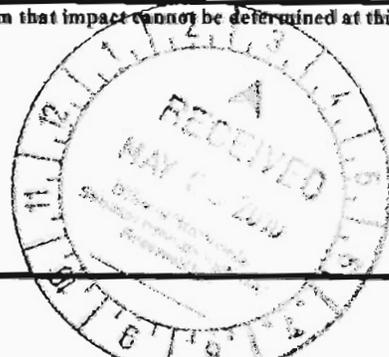
**Estimated Fiscal Impact of Bill**

	One Full Fiscal Year	For Remainder of FY 2010 (if applicable)	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Tourist Attraction Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

- Does the bill contain "revenue generating" provisions? / / Yes / x / No  
If Yes, see attachment
- Is amount appropriated adequate to fund the intent of the appropriation? / x / N/A / / Yes / / No  
If no, what is the additional amount required? \$ \_\_\_\_\_ / x / N/A
- Does the Bill establish a new program/agency? / / Yes / x / No  
If yes, will the program duplicate existing programs/agencies? / / N/A / / Yes / x / No  
Is there a federal mandate to establish the program/agency? / / Yes / x / No
- Will the enactment of this Bill require new physical facilities? / / Yes / x / No
- Was Fiscal Note coordinated with the affected dept/agency? If no, indicate reason: / x / Yes / / No  
/ x / Requested agency comments not received by due date / / Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Analyst: John AB Pangclinan Date: 4/16/10 Director: Bertha M. Duenas, Director, BBMR Date: APR 16 2010

Footnotes: The Bill has a potential for a reduction in alcohol tax collections, however in its present form that impact cannot be determined at this time.





# COMMITTEE ON RULES

*I Mina' Trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 30th Guam Legislature

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March 26, 2010

## MEMORANDUM

**To: Pat Santos**  
*Clerk of the Legislature*

**Attorney Therese M. Terlaje**  
*Legislative Legal Counsel*

**From: Senator Rory J. Respicio**  
*Chairperson, Committee on Rules*

**Subject: Referral of Bill Nos. 355-30(COR), 356-30 (COR), and  
357-30(COR)**

As Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of Bill Nos. 355-30(COR), 356-30(COR), and 357-30(LS).

Please ensure that the subject bills are referred, in my name, to the respective committees, as shown on the attachment. I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Mendiola or Elaine Tajalle at 472-7679.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

(1) Attachment

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*I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**Bill Log Sheet**  
Page 1 of 1

Bill No.	Sponsor(s)	Title	Date Introduced	Date Referred	Committee Referred	Public Hearing Date	Date Committee Report Filed	Status (Date)
B355-30 (COR)	T. C. Ada	An act to amend Section §10101 and 10105(1) of Chapter 10, Title 12, Guam Code Annotated relative to the Jose D. Leon Guerrero Commercial Port's Authority to lease real property.	3/25/10 10:39 a.m.	3/26/10	Committee on Utilities, Transportation, Public Works, and Veterans Affairs			
B356-30 (COR)	B.J.F. Cruz	An act to amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, %i513 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages.	3/25/10 10:55 a.m.	3/26/10	Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land			
B357-30 (COR)	B.J.F. Cruz	An act to stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale provision of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law by amending § 3613 of Chapter 3, Title 11, Guam Code Annotated.	3/25/10 11:11 a.m.	3/26/10	Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance, Retirement, and Land			



Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan

Senator vicente (ben) c. pangelinan (D)

June 2, 2010

Memorandum

To: All Senators

From: Senator vicente c. pangelinan

Re: **Public Hearing - FIRST NOTICE - CORRECTION**

Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
Retirement, and Land

Member  
Committee on Education

Member  
Committee on  
Municipal Affairs,  
Aviation, Housing, and  
Recreation

Member  
Committee on Labor, the  
Public Structure,  
Public Libraries, and  
Technology

The Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance and Land will conduct a public hearing beginning at **9:00am on Wednesday, June 9, 2010** at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. The following bills are on the agenda:

Bill No. 306-30 (COR) (Aguon): An Act Relative to Rezoning Lot 1, Block 2, of the Subdivision of Lot 1098, Remainder, located in the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam from Residential ("R-1") to Commercial ("C") to allow for greater application and use of the property and the surrounding area.

Bill No. 324-30 (COR) (Calvo): An Act to authorize *I Maga'Lahen Guahan* to exchange government property in Barrigada for privately owned property located in Barrigada to be used for the Guam Flood Mitigation Plan.

Bill No. 337-30 (COR) (Aguon): An Act relative to providing Guam Memorial Hospital Authority a secured funding source for the dedicated purpose of reducing outstanding debt service payments, by amending §26603(d) thereby providing financial relief in GMHA's borrowing ability and support in its operations.

Bill No. 356-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to Amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; Relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages.

Bill No. 357-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale provision of the alcoholic Beverage Control Law by amending §3613 of Chapter 3, Title 11 Guam Code Annotated.

Bill No. 363-30 (COR)(pangelinan): An Act to amend §75102(a) of Chapter 75, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated relative to the composition of members to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission.

Bill No. 364-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to amend Section 6 of Public Law 24-141 relative to event admissions assessment to the Guam Raceway Park.

GUAM LEGISLATURE  
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Memo to All Senators  
June 2, 2010  
Page 2

Bill No. 389-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to Amend Article 3 of §3303, Article 4 of §3419 and §3420 and Article 6 of §3619 of Chapter 3 Title 11 and Article 1 of §18102 and §18121 of Chapter 18 Title 16 of the Guam Code Annotated relative to increasing the minimum legal drinking age.

Bill No. 391-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to Amend §61619 and §61633 of Article 6, Chapter 61, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated relative to hearing date-notice.

For copies of the bill, you can log onto [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com) or [www.senbenp.com](http://www.senbenp.com)

*Si Yu'os Ma'ase.*

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Wed, Jun 2, 2010 at 3:57 PM  
Public Hearing - First Notice  
guamlegislature.org

Hafa Adai,  
Senator pangelinan will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 in the Guam Legislature  
Public Hearing Room beginning at 9:00am. Please see Memo attached.

--  
Lisa Cipollone  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Senator ben c. pangelinan  
(671) 473-4236  
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Senator ben pangelinan will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 9, 2010 at the Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room beginning at 9:00am. Agenda is as follows:

PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, June 9, 2010 AGENDA 9:00 AM

- Bill No. 306-30 (COR) (Aguon): An Act Relative to Rezoning Lot 1, Block 2, of the Subdivision of Lot 1098, Remainder, located in the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam from Residential ("R-1") to Commercial ("C") to allow for greater application and use of the property and the surrounding area.
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Bill No. 363-30 (COR)(pangelinan): An Act to amend §75102(a) of Chapter 75, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated relative to the composition of members to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission.
Bill No. 364-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to amend Section 6 of Public Law 24-141 relative to event admissions assessment to the Guam Raceway Park.
Bill No. 389-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to Amend Article 3 of §3303, Article 4 of §3419 and §3420 and Article 6 of §3619 of Chapter 3 Title 11 and Article 1 of §18102 and §18121 of Chapter 18 Title 16 of the Guam Code Annotated relative to increasing the minimum legal drinking age.
Bill No. 391-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to Amend §61619 and §61633 of Article 6, Chapter 61, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated relative to hearing date-notice.

-- Lisa Cipollone Chief of Staff Office of Senator ben c. pangelinan (671) 473-4236 cipo@guamlegislature.org

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Guam Department of Labor to assemble the experts from across the country to discuss what the impacts and effects will be and how businesses can be prepared.

For more information and a registration form, email [shrm.guam.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:shrm.guam.chapter@gmail.com)

## Build a bike?

Federation members to ensure the bikes are in working order and fit for distribution.

Assembled bikes will then be presented to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam to be given to children enrolled in the program. Build-A-Bike teams will also be vying for awards in special categories, including Fastest Team, Top Technical Score and Most Spirited Team.

Participation fee per team is \$650, and includes registration, bicycle kit and a helmet. Funds raised through this event will go toward supporting youth mentoring programs and support services. The Build-A-Bike event is part of the ongoing Little Big Ride Campaign to raise awareness, funds and recruit volunteers for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Interested parties may call Vanessa Estella at 472-2227.

## This is how you do it

Zita Y. Tartano / Variety

Carl Medina, of the Department of Agriculture's forestry division, shows sixth graders John Lubas, Travis Lane and Maryse Aquino, how to properly plant a tree during a tree-planting ceremony at the Astumbo Middle School campus that concluded Guam TeleGuam's phonebook roundup program on May 26.

changes to routes and services, effective June 1, in an effort to expand and improve services.

► Blue Line 1 will provide service to Harmon Loop Road with new stops at the Dededo Flea Market, Chalan Kaskado, Guerrero Elementary School, Shirley's, and Harmon Drugs on Route 16.

► Blue Line 2 will provide service to Nimitz Hill Estates, main entrance only.

► Red Line 1 will provide service to the Mongiloo Pay-Less Supermarket.

► Grey Line 3 will provide service to the Barrigada Post Office.

► Green Line 1 will provide

The Guam Parole Board regular scheduled hearing will be on Thursday, June 24, at 8:30 a.m. in the Parole Services Division located on the fifth floor, suite 505 of the DNA Building in Hagatna. For more information, call 473-7001.

The Barrigada Mayor's Office announces that Carmen's Driving School will be holding a "Safe and Drug Free / Violence Prevention" drivers education course for youths ages 15 and older, and adults. Classes will commence on June 2 and thereafter every Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call 734-3737 for more info.



Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan  
Office of the People

PUBLIC HEARING  
Wednesday, June 9, 2010

AGENDA  
9:00 AM

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If you require any special accommodations, please contact the Office of Senator ben pangelinan at 473-4236 email at [senbenp@guam.net](mailto:senbenp@guam.net) or log onto [www.senbenp.com](http://www.senbenp.com).

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### Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator vicente "ben" c. pangellinan  
Office of the People

### PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, June 9, 2010

#### AGENDA 9:00 AM

Bill No. 306-30 (COR) (Aguon): An Act Relative to Rezoning Lot 1, Block 2, of the Subdivision of Lot 1098, Remainder, located in the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam from Residential ("R-1") to Commercial ("C") to allow for greater application and use of the property and the surrounding area.

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Interested applicants should apply at Guam Employment Service at the One Stop Career Center located at GCIC Building, 414 West Soledad Ave., Hagatna, Guam. This job offer is open to all qualified U.S. workers without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. The job offer is open to the U.S. workers with disabilities who are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job. (Ref. No. 2010-080)

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Benefit: Roundtrip airfare for off-island hire. Interested applicants should apply at the Guam Employment Service at the One-Stop Career Center located at the GCIC Bldg., 414 West Soledad Ave., Hagatna. The job offer is open to all qualified United States workers without regard to Race, Color, National Origin, Age, Sex, Citizenship and is in compliance with Title II of the Genetics Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. The job offer is open to U.S. workers with disabilities who are qualified, willing, able and available to perform the job. (Ref. No. 2010-079).



Office of

The People

# Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan

Senator vicente (ben) c. pangelinan (D)

June 7, 2010

## Memorandum

To: All Senators

From: Senator vicente c. pangelinan

Re: Public Hearing - SECOND NOTICE

Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Taxation, Banking, Insurance,  
Retirement, and Land

Member  
Committee on Education

Member  
Committee on  
Municipal Affairs,  
Aviation, Housing, and  
Recreation

Member  
Committee on Labor, the  
Public Structure,  
Public Libraries, and  
Technology

The Committee on Appropriations, Taxation, Banking, Insurance and Land will conduct a public hearing beginning at **9:00am on Wednesday, June 9, 2010** at the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing Room. The following bills are on the agenda:

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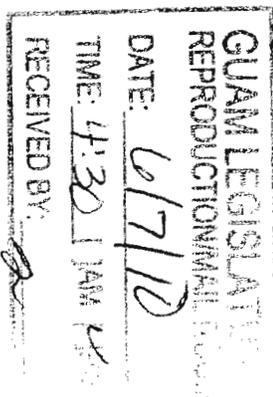
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Memo to All Senators  
June 7, 2010  
Page 2

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For copies of the bill, you can log onto [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com) or [www.senbenp.com](http://www.senbenp.com)

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Senator ben pangelinan will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 9, 2010 beginning at 9:00am at the Legislature Public Hearing Room. See agenda attached.

-- Lisa Cipollone Chief of Staff Office of Senator ben c. pangelinan (671) 473-4236 cipo@guamlegislature.org

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This is a second notice for public hearing by Senator ben pangelinan for Wednesday, June 9 beginning at 9:00am at the Legislature's Public Hearing Room.

PUBLIC HEARING Wednesday, June 9, 2010 AGENDA 9:00 AM

- Bill No. 306-30 (COR) (Aguon): An Act Relative to Rezoning Lot 1, Block 2, of the Subdivision of Lot 1098, Remainder, located in the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam from Residential ("R-1") to Commercial ("C") to allow for greater application and use of the property and the surrounding area.
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Bill No. 356-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to Amend §3414 of Article 4, Chapter 3, Title 11 of the Guam Code Annotated; Relative to reducing hours of sale for alcoholic beverages.
Bill No. 357-30 (COR) (Cruz): An Act to stiffen the penalty imposed for violations of the hours of sale provision of the alcoholic Beverage Control Law by amending §3613 of Chapter 3, Title 11 Guam Code Annotated.
Bill No. 363-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to amend §75102(a) of Chapter 75, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated relative to the composition of members to the Chamorro Land Trust Commission.
Bill No. 364-30 (COR) (pangelinan): An Act to amend Section 6 of Public Law 24-141 relative to event admissions assessment to the Guam Raceway Park.
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Lisa Cipollone
Chief of Staff
Office of Senator ben c. pangelinan
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and try it out. I really  
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"I guess I'll be up for  
if I get a part."

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complete. Don and Kel  
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cast within the next two  
months hopefully and  
re we'll be running them.  
the wringer," Don said.



Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator vicente "ben" c. pangelinan  
Office of the People

PUBLIC HEARING  
Wednesday, June 9, 2010

AGENDA  
9:00 AM

**Bill No. 306-30 (COR) (Aguon):** An Act Relative to Rezoning Lot 1, Block 2, of the Subdivision of Lot 1098, Remainder, located in the Municipality of Barrigada, Guam from Residential ("R1") to Commercial ("C") to allow for greater application and use of the property and the surrounding area.

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**Bill No. 364-30 (COR) (pangelinan):** An Act to amend Section 6 of Public Law 24-141 relative to event admissions assessments to the Guam Raceway Park.

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The Associated Press

**ther**: Jockey Mike Smith sprints p Drosselmeyer to win the 142nd Mont Stakes at Belmont Park in Ely.



1 Mott Crown

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a little change in routine," said WinStar Farm racing manager Elliott Walden. "We went to Mike because we felt he would get him in a rhythm and keep him running. This horse really kicked hard turning for home and finished strong."

WinStar seems to making all the right calls these days, and closed out the Triple Crown with wins in two races — they also own Kentucky Derby winner Super Saver. Super Saver and Preakness winner Loptkin At Lucky did not run in the final leg of the Triple Crown.



Mina' Tronta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
THIRTIETH GUAM LEGISLATURE

Senator vicente "ben" c. pangellinan  
Office of the People

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# I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN

2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

Date: 7/2/10

## VOTING SHEET

Bill No. 356-30(COR)

Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

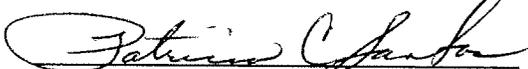
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ADA, V. Anthony		✓			
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BLAS, Frank F., Jr.		✓			
CALVO, Edward J.B.		✓			
CRUZ, Benjamin J. F.	✓				
ESPALDON, James V. /	✓				
GUTHERTZ, Judith Paulette		✓			
MUNA-BARNES, Tina Rose ///		✓*			
PALACIOS, Adolpho Borja, Sr.	✓				
PANGELINAN, vicente (ben) cabrera	✓				
RESPICIO, Rory J.		✓			
TAITAGUE, Telo		✓			
TENORIO, Ray //	✓				
WON PAT, Judith T.	✓				

TOTAL

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 Clerk of the Legislature

\* 3 Passes = No vote  
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