

I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Received
Bill Log Sheet

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	FISCAL NOTES
353-32 (LS)	Aline A.Yamashita, Ph.D.	AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 54(B) TO TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO PROMOTE PLASTIC BAG REDUCTION IN GUAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT.	6/16/14 10:22 a.m.	06/17/14	Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign, & Micronesia Affairs, Human & Natural Resources, and Election Reform			



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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June 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Rennae Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Therese M. Terlaje
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio 
Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Subject: Referral of Bill No. 353-32(LS)

As the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of **Bill No. 353-32(LS)**.

Please ensure that the subject bill is referred, in my name, to the respective committee, as shown on the attachment. I also request that the same be forwarded to all members of *I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse!

Attachment

I MINA' TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2014 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. 353-32 (W)

Introduced by

Aline A. Yamashita, PhD *AY*

**AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER 54(B) TO TITLE 10,
GUAM CODE ANNOTATED TO PROMOTE PLASTIC BAG
REDUCTION IN GUAM FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR
ENVIRONMENT.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds

that numerous states and countries have introduced legislation in a bid to reduce litter and pollution caused by plastic waste, specifically non-biodegradable plastic bags. According to the US International Trade Commission, in 2009, Americans annually use 102.1 billion plastic bags creating tons of landfill waste. Locally, according to the Recycling Association of Guam, the industry standard is 500 plastic bags per person per year. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that approximately 80,000,000 plastic bags are used annually by Guam's population of approximately 160,000. While plastic bags end up in the landfill, not all do as they litter Guam's properties and potentially end up in the ocean creating a danger to

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marine life. Therefore, *I Liheslatura* intends to provide policy to promote plastic bag reduction and environmental protection.

Section 2. A new Chapter 54(b), Title 10, Guam Code Annotated is added to read:

Effective January 1, 2015, any entity licensed to do business on Guam shall be prohibited from providing non-biodegradable plastic bags to customers at the point of sale for the purpose of transporting groceries and other merchandise.

Nothing in this act shall preclude any business from making available to customers biodegradable plastic bags, recyclable paper bags or reusable bags at point of sale. Biodegradable plastic bags shall have the words “Biodegradable, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” printed in a highly visible area on the exterior of the bag.

As used in this Act, “Non-Biodegradable Plastic Bags” is defined as petroleum-based plastic bags that cannot be broken down in the environment by natural processes.

Section 3. Enforcement.

Any entity licensed to do business on Guam that use plastic bags in the commission of point of sale transactions found to be in violation of this Act shall:

(a) be ordered to discontinue the distribution of non-biodegradable plastic bags; and,

1 (b) be subject to a fine of not less than one hundred (\$100), but not more
2 than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day in violation. All funds collected
3 from violations shall be placed in a fund and that will be used for the sole purpose
4 of island beautification projects.

5 The Director of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency be responsible
6 for enforcement of this Act and shall develop rules and regulations to carry out
7 provisions of this Section pursuant to the Administrative Adjudication Act.