

I MINA' BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2006 (SECOND) REGULAR SESSION

Bill No. 230 (LS)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio
B.J.F. Cruz
J.T. Won Pat

AN ACT TO SUBMIT TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM A QUESTION TO BE VOTED UPON IN THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7, 2006 RELATIVE TO RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE OF GUAM TO FIVE DOLLARS AND EIGHTY FIVE CENTS (\$5.85) PER HOUR EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2007, SIX DOLLARS AND FIFTY-FIVE CENTS (\$6.55) PER HOUR EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2008, AND SEVEN DOLLARS AND TWENTY FIVE CENTS (\$7.25) PER HOUR EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2009.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan*
3 *Guahan* finds that a bill to raise Guam's current minimum wage has
4 received strong opposition from a number of vocal elements in our
5 community, while a small handful have spoken for those who would
6 most benefit from the increase, specifically the working poor, who
7 are the least able and least likely to testify before a legislative
8 committee.

9 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that Guam's current
10 minimum wage been is based on the established federal minimum
11 wage rate of Five Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$5.15) per hour, a rate

1 which has remained unchanged for nine (9) years while the price of
2 virtually every commodity that the working poor need for survival
3 has increased.

4 *I Liheslaturan Guahan* further finds that Twenty (20) state
5 legislatures and the District of Columbia have adopted a minimum
6 wage that is higher than the federal minimum. This means that our
7 workers on minimum wage receive less pay than the average
8 American minimum wage worker. In addition, more than 70
9 American communities require that some of their workers be paid a
10 “living wage,” a rate higher than the minimum wage, and calculated
11 to allow its recipients to actually be able to survive on their income.

12 Because *I Liheslaturan Guahan* has had great difficulty agreeing
13 on a reasonable minimum wage, this issue has become one that must
14 be decided by the people. Therefore *I Liheslaturan Guahan* intends that
15 the question of raising the minimum wage to \$5.85 per hour effective
16 on January 1, 2007, \$6.55 per hour effective on January 1, 2008, and
17 \$7.25 per hour effective on January 1, 2009, should be presented to
18 the voters of Guam at the General Election to be held on November 7,
19 2006.

20 **Section 2. Legislative Submission.**

21 (a) Pursuant to Chapter 17 of Title 3 Guam Code Annotated, the

1 Guam Election Commission shall place the following on a ballot for
2 voting in the General Election of November 7, 2006:

3 "Shall Section 3105 of Division 1, Article 1, Chapter 3 of
4 Title 22 of the Guam Code Annotated, be repealed and
5 reenacted to read:

6 §3105. Minimum Wages. Every employer shall pay each
7 person employed by him wages at not less than Five Dollars
8 and Eighty Five Cents (\$5.85) per hour effective on January 1,
9 2007, Six Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$6.55) per hour effective
10 on January 1, 2008, and Seven Dollars and Twenty Five Cents
11 (\$7.25) per hour effective on January 1, 2009."

12 (b) The choices provided to voters on the ballot shall be "YES"
13 and "NO."