

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

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Bill No. 442-31 (com)

Introduced by:

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AN ACT TO DEVELOP AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE PROGRAM BY ESTABLISHING THE TALOFOFO RIVERWALK PROJECT TO SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS IN SOUTHERN GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

- Section 1. Legislative Statement and Intent.**
- Section 2. Establishment of Talofofu River walk Task Group; Members; and Support.**
- Section 3. Promotion of Agricultural and Aquaculture.**
- Section 4. Presentation of Study and Recommendation.**
- Section 5. Authorization for Funding.**
- Section 6. Severability.**

Section 1. Legislative Statement and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guahan* finds that Talofofu Bay is an inlet situated in the southeastern coast of the island at the mouth of the Talofofu River. The Bay is notable for being one of the most accessible

1 brown sand beaches of Guam. Talofofu Bay is a popular surfing spot which provides
2 some of the best waves on Guam. The local people refer to the surf spot as “Surf
3 Side”.

4 Feeding into the bay is the Talofofu River, where for many years visitors have
5 been able to take a riverboat cruise into the valley. The private venture cruise makes a
6 stop in an area where the relics and the re-creation of an ancient village are found.

7 Along the banks of the river are both aquaculture and agricultural properties,
8 existing and potential, that could be encouraged, developed, and showcased. The river
9 could be further enhanced with the construction of a riverwalk that include vending
10 spaces and rest areas for area visitors. In the vending spaces, farmers can offer their
11 produce that were grown either along the banks or in nearby farms, and local
12 entrepreneurs can sell other locally made products.

13 The river cruise or walk experience could be culminated by a visit to a cultural
14 facility where the fresh products and produce purchased along the banks could be
15 prepared and eaten. Also at the envisioned facility, visitors could be entertained by
16 local musical artists and cultural dance groups.

17 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the development of the banks of the Talofofu
18 River will provide and expand the economic opportunities for farmers, manufacturers
19 of local products, chefs who specialize in using local produce and bounty, cultural
20 dance troupes, and local musical artists. Furthermore, the development of a riverwalk
21 that includes vending spaces and a cultural dining and entertainment facility will help
22 to create a visitor experience that incorporates the beauty of the island with the
23 produce and products grown and made by local residents.

24 **Section 2. Establishment of Talofofu River walk Task Group; Members;**
25 **and Support. (a) Establishment of Talofofu River walk Task Group** To augment
26 the scenic and historic views of Talofofu, there is hereby established a Talofofu River
27 walk Task Group charged with the duty of conducting a feasibility study of a Talofofu

1 River walk project. The River walk project would be aimed at stimulating economic
2 development and enhancement in and around the Talofofu bay and river areas.

3 **(b) Members.** Talofofu River walk Task Group shall be comprised of the
4 following:

5 (1) the Administrator of the Guam Economic Development Authority,
6 who shall serve as chairperson of the Task Group;

7 (2) the Director of the Department of Land Management or designee;

8 (3) the Director of the Department of Agriculture or designee;

9 (4) the Director of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, or designee;

10 (5) the Mayor of Talofofu or his designee; and

11 (6) a member designated by the Talofofu Municipal Planning Council;

12 (7) the General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau or his designee;

13 and

14 (8) from the affected landowner(s).

15 **(c) Logistic Support.** *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* is authorized to designate
16 appropriate governmental agencies to provide office space, clerical and professional
17 assistance to the Task Group.

18 **Section 3. Promotion of Agricultural and Aquaculture.** The Task Group
19 shall promote local produce and products and ensure that safe and dependable food is
20 available for all while visiting the area. Agriculture together with aquaculture not
21 only preserve a time-honored way of life, but they also fuel the island's economy. The
22 Task Group touches the lives of our people and visitors everyday through the food we
23 eat, the fuel we pump, the clothes we wear, the various products we use and the land
24 we enjoy.

25 **Section 4. Presentation of Study and Recommendation.** The Talofofu
26 Task Group shall within one year from the date of its first meeting, submit its study

1 and recommendation to *I Maga'lahañ Guåhan* and the Speaker and members of *I*
2 *Lihsaturan Guåhan*.

3 **Section 5. Authorization for Funding.** The Task Group is hereby authorized
4 to apply for development grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other
5 federal offices.

6 **Section 6. Severability.** *If* any provision of this law or its application to any
7 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall
8 *not* affect other provisions or applications of this law which can be given effect
9 without the invalid provisions or applications, and to this end the provisions of this
10 law are severable.