

I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

2011 APR 12 PM 4:53

Resolution No. 74-31 (COR)

Introduced By:

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Relative to voicing I Liheslaturan Guåhan's (The Guam Legislature's) vehement support for the full implementation of Public Law 110-229 and requesting that the US Secretary of Homeland Security, the Honorable Janet Napolitano, provide for the issuance of a China Russia Visa Waiver Program through her parole authority and the issuance of a broader final rule for the Marianas Visa Waiver Program

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN

2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, the US Congress passed Public Law 110-229, "The
4 Marianas Visa Waiver Program" to sustain the growth of the region's tourism
5 economy; and

6 WHEREAS, Guam's tourism industry is responsible for 20,000 jobs and
7 sixty percent (60%) of Guam's economic base; and

8 WHEREAS, Japanese visitors account for approximately eighty percent
9 (80%) of visitor travel to Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, recent natural disasters in the form of a powerful
11 earthquake, a massive tsunami, and the potential for widespread radiation
12 exposure, have continued to test the resilience and resolve of the Japanese
13 people and their economy; and

14 **WHEREAS**, these disasters have understandably impacted the
15 willingness of the Japanese economy and its people to engage in outbound
16 recreational travel; and

17 **WHEREAS**, industry experts have estimated that Japanese visitor arrivals
18 to Guam may decrease by fifteen to thirty percent (15% - 30%) in the short-term
19 and;

20 **WHEREAS**, policy leaders in Guam and Washington must take strong
21 proactive steps to avert an economic downturn; and

22 **WHEREAS**, declining Japanese arrival numbers will be offset by the
23 increased visitation that a Chinese Russia Visa Waiver Program will provide;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, Guam's inclusion in a China Russia Visa Waiver program
26 will provide Guam with the economic stability required for growth and progress;
27 and

28 **WHEREAS**, our neighbors in the CNMI have already been granted
29 parole authority, allowing the government of the Northern Marianas to presently
30 receive visitors from both China and Russia ; and

31 **WHEREAS**, this parole authority was granted to provide the CNMI with
32 a measure of economic stability in difficult financial times; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Guam must seek inclusion in a China Russia Visa Waiver
34 Program to access an estimated \$1.3billion in tourism revenues; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the US Congress, through its original construction of the
36 "Guam only Visa Waiver Program" recognized conditions unique to Guam; and

37 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of these unique conditions, Congress
38 authorized the "broad application of the mainland program" when considering
39 the criteria used to add countries to Guam's Visa waiver list; and

40 **WHEREAS**, a country under the former "Guam Only Visa Waiver
41 Program" would be considered for addition to Guam's waiver program as long as
42 that country had a US visa denial rate of 16.9% or lower; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the aforementioned allowance was not continued under the
44 existing Marianas Visa Waiver Program and that shortcoming may be mitigated
45 through the use of parole authority thereby allowing a China Russia Visa Waiver
46 Program for Guam; and

47 **WHEREAS**, each military base in Guam has its own perimeter and
48 internal security, thereby providing a protection to external threats, security is
49 not just at the airport, but also at each military facility; and

50 **WHEREAS**, visitors from China and other areas that may be of concern
51 to the Department of Homeland Security already have access to the island by

way of regular visas and the temporary foreign worker program - U.S.
employers are able to hire foreign workers on a temporary or permanent basis to
fill jobs in United States or its jurisdictions as will be the case in support of the
impending military buildup in Guam; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Homeland Security has granted the CNMI a
China Russia Visa Waiver Program by parole authority, and in so doing, has
demonstrated that security concerns regarding the presence of Chinese or
Russian nationals on U.S. soil has already been adequately resolved; and

WHEREAS, the congressional intent of Public Law 110-229 must be
fully recognized as the existing mandate of the land and should therefore be fully
executed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina' Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, petition the Secretary of Homeland
Security, the Honorable Janet Napolitano, to immediately exercise her parole
authority and permit Guam's inclusion in a China Russia Visa Waiver
Program thereby recognizing the congressional intent of Public Law 110-229;
and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
attests to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter be

71 transmitted to the Honorable Janet Napolitano, the US Secretary of Homeland
72 Security; and to the Honorable Eddie B. Calvo, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTA NA*
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS ____ DAY OF April, 2011.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary