

I MINA'TRENTAIUNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUĀHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 330 -31 (LS)

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Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
J. P. Guthertz, DPA

RELATIVE TO REQUESTING THAT THE HONORABLE MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO ADVOCATE FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF THE SCHEDULE OF FEES CHARGED BY THE U.S. CONSULATE IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR B-1 AND B-2 VISAS; AND TO ALSO FORMALLY REQUESTING THE SAME OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA*
2 *LIHESLATURAN GUĀHAN*:

3 WHEREAS, each year, thousands of non-immigrant visa requests are
4 submitted to the United States Embassy in Manila, Republic of the
5 Philippines, including those for B-1 and B-2 visas, which categories
6 include persons traveling for leisure, for medical reasons, for business
7 purposes, and for those wishing to visit ailing family members; and

8 WHEREAS, under the current procedures, a fee payment of One
9 Hundred Forty Dollars (\$140.00) is required from each applicant,
10 regardless of whether the visa request is approved or denied; and

11 WHEREAS, this is a significant cost for the people of many nations
12 such as the Philippines, where the average wage is less than Seven Dollars
13 (\$7.00) per day, and appears to be more punitive than necessary when
14 considering that the Philippines is among our country's staunchest allies;
15 and

1 **WHEREAS**, given the strict standards for visa approval and the high
2 denial rate for visa applications from residents of the Philippines, the
3 number of applicants who are required to pay the application fee in spite
4 of being denied a visa is likely to be in the thousands; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the One Hundred Forty Dollar (\$140.00) fee may seem
6 insignificant by the standards of the U.S. Government, but it does
7 represent nearly a month's wages for the average citizen of the
8 Philippines, and is a considerable financial burden; and

9 **WHEREAS**, until such time a Philippine visa waiver, or a Guam-only
10 visa waiver is implemented, a more compassionate policy that would limit
11 charges to only approved visas would reflect well on the image of the
12 United States and relations with the people of the Philippines; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trentai unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf
15 of the people of Guam, does hereby respectfully request that the Honorable
16 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress-Guam, advocate with the U.S.
17 Department of State for an adjustment of the fee schedule for applications
18 for B-1 and B-2 visas for citizens of the Philippines, so that a fee is applied
19 only for the issuance of approved visas; and be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trentai unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf
21 of the people of Guam, does hereby respectfully request that the
22 Department of State of the United States adjust the fee schedule for
23 applications for B-1 and B-2 visas for citizens of the Philippines, so that a
24 fee is applied only for the issuance of approved visas; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary
2 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter
3 transmitted to the Honorable Bayani V. Mangibin, Philippine Consul
4 General for the Territory of Guam; to the Honorable Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.,
5 Republic of the Philippines Ambassador to the United States; to the
6 Honorable Albert F. Del Rosario, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the
7 Republic of the Philippines; to the Honorable Harry K. Thomas, Jr., United
8 States Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines; to the Honorable
9 Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States of America;
10 to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Member of Congress-Guam; and
11 to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.