

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

Resolution No. *628* -31 (COR)
Introduced by:

Committee On Rules

Relative to officially requesting the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) to assist *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in the procurement of financing necessary for the reconstruction of the historic Guam Legislature Building in *Hagåtña*, in conjunction with the Guam Preservation Trust, to include refurbishing, restoring, and modernizing the existing structure.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA UNU NA LIHESLATURAN
GUÅHAN

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1947, the United States Navy began construction of the
2 Guam Legislature Building, originally known as the "Guam Congress
3 Building," as part of the island's post-World War II rebuilding efforts, with
4 the intent that the building serve as the home of the members of the House
5 of Council and the House of Assembly of the Guam Congress, all
6 appointed by the Naval Governor of Guam, the building having been
7 completed on July 8, 1948, and officially presented to the people of Guam
8 by Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall, Naval Governor of Guam on July 21,
9 1948; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in addition to serving as the home of the Guam Congress,
11 the building also temporarily housed the Island District Court and the
12 Territorial Court of Guam, and eventually the Guam Legislature, and is
13 situated within the "Capitol District" of *Hagåtña*; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Congress Building was the site of the famous
15 "walkout" of Guam Congress members in March of 1949, led by the late
16 Speaker Carlos P. Taitano, and eventually resulting in action by the United

1 States Congress and President Harry S. Truman to enact the Organic Act of
2 Guam, granting the people of Guam American citizenship and providing
3 for popular election of local officials; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the unicameral Guam Legislature, created by the Organic
5 Act to replace the Guam Congress, took over what has come to be known,
6 and hereinafter referred to, as the Guam Legislature Building, beginning its
7 first term of service in January 1951; and

8 **WHEREAS**, a string of natural disasters over the ensuing four (4)
9 decades, combined with a lack of funding needed to properly modernize
10 the building for contemporary use, reduced the functionality and safety of
11 the Guam Legislature Building, eventually requiring the relocation of the
12 Legislature's offices in 1990; and

13 **WHEREAS**, having met the criteria necessary to be considered an
14 historic place, which includes historic value, political importance, cultural
15 significance, or architectural worthiness, or any combination thereof, the
16 historic Guam Legislature Building was added to the listing of the National
17 Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2007 as Item No. 66-01-1102; and

18 **WHEREAS**, during the twenty-two (22) years that the Legislature has
19 been unable to occupy its home, *I Liheslatura* has been spending nearly half
20 a million dollars each year in rental fees for various buildings in order to
21 conduct legislative business, including sessions, public hearings, and
22 meetings, and to provide office space for senators and staff; and

23 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Rule XI Section 11.11 (k)(2) of *I Mina'Trentai*
24 *Unu na Liheslaturan Guåhan Otden Areklamento* (the Thirty-First Guam
25 Legislature Standing Rules), the Committee on Rules, on behalf of *I*
26 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, is seeking financing assistance from the Guam
27 Economic Development Authority, in addition to the financial and
28 technical assistance currently being provided by the Guam Preservation
29 Trust, to restore and properly modernize the building for contemporary

1 use; and

2 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to adequately house
3 certain offices within the revitalized Guam Legislature Building, including
4 certain sections of central operations, as well as offices for the Speaker,
5 Vice-Speaker, Legislative Secretary, Majority Leader, and Committee on
6 Rules Chairperson, as an integral part of the restoration process; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in order to accomplish this goal, a second floor and wider
8 footprint, comprising an area of approximately eight thousand two
9 hundred (8,200) square feet, is proposed to be included in the construction
10 of the north side wing, and is hereinafter referred to as the "north wing
11 modification," and the Trust has agreed that the "north wing modification"
12 can be constructed concurrently with the reconstruction of the original
13 structure; and

14 **WHEREAS**, funding to construct new legislative facilities and to
15 renovate existing ones is authorized by Title 2, Guam Code Annotated,
16 §1126, as follows: "The funding for the construction, purchase, lease or
17 other means of acquisition shall be by legislative appropriation, funds
18 currently in the budget for *I Liheslatura* and appropriated for lease of the
19 buildings in *Hagåtña* now occupied by *I Liheslatura*, grant from the
20 Department of Administration, grant or loan from any agency or part of
21 the federal or local government, a loan from a private financial institution,
22 donations or contributions, an appropriate combination of said means or
23 by any appropriate means. Leases, contracts and construction contracts
24 with private entities authorized by this Section shall be entered into
25 pursuant to the procurement laws applicable to *I Liheslatura*;" and

26 **WHEREAS**, Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, §79602 allows the income
27 in the Capitol District Fund received from any lease of property within the
28 Capitol District to be dedicated for the repair, restoration, renovation, or
29 refurbishment of the Guam Congress Building or other Capitol District

1 properties pursuant to a Legislative Resolution; and

2 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the “north wing modification” may be
3 financed through space rental savings realized by moving legislative
4 central operations and as well as senatorial offices, from their existing
5 location into the renovated Guam Legislature Building; and

6 **WHEREAS**, such savings, combined with rental income from other
7 properties managed by *I Liheslatura*, as well as other authorized funding
8 sources, *shall* provide the funding needed to modernize the building and
9 provide a permanent home adequate to meet the modern needs of *I*
10 *Liheslatura*; now, therefore, be it

11 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf
12 of the people of Guam, does hereby commit to providing the necessary
13 funding, and requests the Guam Economic Development Authority to seek
14 financing or loan assistance for this project, and hereby authorizes the
15 Executive Director of *I Liheslatura* to work with the Guam Economic
16 Development Authority in order to obtain such financing or loan assistance
17 necessary, *subject* to final approval of the financing by *I Liheslatura*, to
18 construct the “north wing modification” of the historic building and to
19 modernize and restore the existing building in order to provide a
20 permanent home adequate to meet the modern needs of *I Liheslatura*; and
21 be it further

22 **RESOLVED**, that in conjunction with the Guam Preservation Trust,
23 the Executive Director shall proceed with the planning, design and
24 construction necessary to restore and properly modernize the Guam
25 Legislature Building to its original footprint and to also include the existing
26 west side Session Hall, the existing east side Council Chamber, the south
27 side Speaker’s wing and the new north wing modification; and be it further

28 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee
29 on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof,

- 1 and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to etc. etc. etc. to Mr.
- 2 Vincent P. Arriola, Executive Director, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan*
- 3 *Guåhan*; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THIS _____ TH DAY OF _____, 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary