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

Resolution No. 638 -31 (COR) Introduced by:

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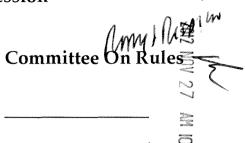
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Relative to officially requesting the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA) to assist I Liheslaturan Guåhan in the procurement of financing necessary for the reconstruction of the historic Guam Legislature Building in Hagatña, in conjunction with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

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

WHEREAS, in 1947, the United States Navy began construction of the 1 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 the intent that the building serve as the home of the members of the House 4 5 of Council and the House of Assembly of the Guam Congress, all appointed by the Naval Governor of Guam, the building having been 6 completed on July 8, 1948, and officially presented to the people of Guam 7 by Rear Admiral Charles A. Pownall, Naval Governor of Guam on July 21, 8 9 1948; and

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

WHEREAS, the Guam Congress Building was the site of the famous "walkout" of Guam Congress members in March of 1949, led by the late Speaker Carlos P. Taitano, and eventually resulting in action by the United States Congress and President Harry S. Truman to enact the Organic Act of Guam, granting the people of Guam American citizenship and providing for popular election of local officials; and

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

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

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

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

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

use; and

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

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

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

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

properties pursuant to a Legislative Resolution; and

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

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

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

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

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

- 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