

***I MINA' TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2013 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 189-32(COR)

Introduced By:

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**Relative to Adopting Zero Waste as a guiding principle for Sustainable Materials Management and Supporting the Creation and Adoption of a Zero Waste Plan For Guam in order to preserve the Lanyon landfill for generations to come.**

23 JUL 17 PM 2:34  
T.M.B.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'***  
2 ***TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***  
3 **WHEREAS,** I Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes and acknowledges the clear  
4 connection between waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and beneficial reuse  
5 issues and the need to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns  
6 while protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social  
7 development; and  
8 **WHEREAS,** I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that based on recent estimates, the  
9 expected life of the landfill will be 35-40 years, with the Military as a customer and 45-  
10 50 years without the Military. The life span of the landfill can be extended only with

1 effective implementation of **waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery** and  
2 **beneficial reuse programs**; and

3         **WHEREAS**, I Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes that its work in establishing the  
4 Recycling Revolving Fund, Recycling Enterprise Zones at the Port Authority of Guam,  
5 and the Guam Beverage Recycling Act of 2010 were all steps towards the eventual  
6 establishing of a sustainable zero waste community for Guam; and

7         **WHEREAS**, developing and implementing a zero waste strategy should be  
8 measured, evaluated and achieved by utilizing current and accepted methodologies,  
9 such as environmental systems management and life cycle analysis, to support science  
10 based policies and operations; and

11         **WHEREAS**, Guam's limited and valuable land resource and fragile environment  
12 must be preserved and protected. The protection of the environment, both terrestrial  
13 and aquatic, stimulation of the economy, and distribution of equity can be achieved by  
14 promoting waste reduction, recycling, resource recovery and beneficial reuse through  
15 Zero Waste practices in the public and private sectors; and

16         **WHEREAS**, the use of the term "zero waste" includes "Zero Solid Waste", "Zero  
17 Hazardous Waste", "Zero Toxics" and "Zero Emissions." The goals of "zero waste"  
18 embody the need for a closed-looped waste management system, in which waste is a  
19 sign of inefficiency and the entire concept of waste should be eliminated; and

20         **WHEREAS**, waste should be thought of as a "residual product" or simply a  
21 "potential resource" for beneficial reuse to counter the basic acceptance of waste as a  
22 normal course of events. Zero Waste strategies consider the entire life-cycle of products,  
23 processes and systems in the context of a comprehensive systems understanding of our  
24 interactions with nature and the search for inefficiencies at all stages; and

25         **WHEREAS**, Zero Waste is a community-based model that aims to eliminate or  
26 minimize landfill disposal by the application of simple solutions and sustainable  
27 materials management systems that are healthy for our people, and our island; and

1           **WHEREAS**, The Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management  
2 Officials has endorsed developing a Zero Waste Strategy, a significant component in  
3 implementing a comprehensive (waste) materials management program for small  
4 island developing states like Guam through both regulatory and cooperative  
5 environmental governance; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Because of its mission the Solid Waste Management Authority will  
7 have the primary responsibility for implementing the Guam Zero Waste Plan and  
8 developing the outreach and educational components required to educate and inform  
9 the public; and

10           **WHEREAS**, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency and its Division of Air  
11 and Land should work collaboratively with the Solid Waste Management Authority,  
12 and the Office of the Governor to synchronize its permitting process so that it will  
13 reflect and incorporate Zero Waste principals into all of permitting and monitoring  
14 functions and systems; and

15           **WHEREAS**, Zero Waste is a critical stepping stone to other necessary steps in the  
16 effort to protect health, improve equity, and reach sustainability. Zero Waste can be  
17 linked to sustainable agriculture, permaculture, architecture, energy, industrial,  
18 economic and community development; and

19           **WHEREAS**, a Zero Waste strategy supports all three of the generally accepted  
20 goals of sustainability, that is, environmental protection as well as economic and social  
21 well-being. Environmental protection is enhanced by reducing (ideally to zero)  
22 hazardous and solid wastes to nature and by reducing the need for energy generation  
23 and hydrocarbon extraction. Economic well-being is improved by enabling  
24 organizations to identify inefficiencies in processes, products and services and thereby  
25 to find cost-saving solutions to them.

1           **WHEREAS**, Social well-being is enhanced through efficiency improvements that  
2 allow more resources to be available for all. In addition, more complete use of "wastes"  
3 may additionally create jobs in return logistics and reprocessing activities; and

4           **WHEREAS**, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the concept of "sustainable  
5 materials management," within the last several years, has increasingly captured the  
6 attention of environmental managers and the public. As recent discussions have  
7 focused on energy efficiency, resource conservation, the release of greenhouse gases,  
8 climate change and toxins, it has become increasingly clear that the way we manage  
9 and use materials, across their full life cycle, has a critical effect on the world's  
10 environmental health; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has described  
12 the importance of how we manage materials in its report, Sustainable Materials  
13 Management: The Road Ahead (2009). In the report, EPA argued that, to ensure a  
14 sustainable society, we need to rethink how we manage materials – and indeed which  
15 materials we use by looking at the full life cycle of materials from extraction to  
16 production to use to disposal; and

17           **WHEREAS**, I Liheslaturan Guåhan is committed to protecting and enhancing  
18 environmental quality now and for future generations; and

19           **WHEREAS**, over one hundred thousand of tons of materials are generated in  
20 Guam each year by residents, businesses, organizations, and institutions, and  
21 approximately 85% of this amount is sent for landfill disposal; and

22           **WHEREAS**, the placement of materials in landfills can cause damage to human  
23 health, wastes natural resources, and irresponsibly transfers liabilities to future  
24 generations; and

25           **WHEREAS**, waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and composting are material  
26 management options that conserve resources while reducing environmental impacts;  
27 and

1           **WHEREAS**, increased recycling, permaculture and composting will increase the  
2 cost-efficiency of local publicly supported recycling facilities and programs; and

3           **WHEREAS**, increased recycling saves energy, water, natural resources, reduces  
4 air and water pollution, reduces the damage caused by extracting resources from the  
5 environment, and reduces the need for landfill facilities; and

6           **WHEREAS**, a resource recovery based economy will sustain, on a per-ton basis,  
7 up to ten times more jobs than land filling or incineration, and these jobs will be more  
8 productive and meaningful; and

9           **WHEREAS**, increasingly, U.S. and international governments and organizations  
10 are adopting the policy that the financial responsibility of collecting, recycling, and  
11 disposing of materials belongs with producers and importers; and

12           **WHEREAS**, recognizing that voluntary recycling goals have not, and in all  
13 probability cannot, achieve waste elimination; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the Zero Waste philosophy accepts that the earth's ability to support  
15 life is finite and that natural resources must be used in the most efficient and  
16 sustainable way possible; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the guiding principles of Zero Waste are: managing resources  
18 instead of waste; conserving natural resources through waste prevention and recycling;  
19 turning discarded resources into jobs and new products instead of trash; promoting  
20 products and materials that are durable and recyclable; and discouraging products and  
21 materials that can only become trash after their use; and

22           **WHEREAS**, I Liheslaturan Guåhan calls for the creation and implementation of a  
23 Guam Zero Waste Plan; and now therefore be it

24           **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina' Trentai Dos Na*  
25 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, call for the  
26 Guam Zero Waste Plan to be designed to achieve the initial goal of increasing waste  
27 diversion for the Government of Guam and for the island as a whole, to 60% or better

1 by the year 2016. The ultimate goal of the Guam Zero Waste Plan is to eliminate waste  
2 by 2022, thereby preserving the current landfill for generations to come, before having  
3 to spend the hundreds of millions of dollars in resources needed to build another  
4 landfill, and be it further

5         **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on  
6 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that  
7 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the following officials: the President  
8 of the Recycling Association of Guam, the Administrator of the Guam  
9 Environmental Protection Agency, to the Administrator of the Air and Land  
10 Division of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, to the Administrator,  
11 Operations Manager and members of the Board of the Solid Waste Management  
12 Authority, to the Special Assistant to the Governor of Guam for the Office of the  
13 Military Build Up, to the Western Regional Office of Economic Adjustment, of  
14 the Department of Defense, to the Vice President of Matrix Consulting, to the  
15 members of the Board of the Association of the State and Territorial Solid Waste  
16 Managers, to the Administrator of Region Nine of the United States Environmental  
17 Protection Agency, to the President of the Association of Pacific Island  
18 Legislatures, to the Pacific Island Regional Recycling Initiative of the Council of  
19 Micronesia Chief Executives, to the Director-General of the Secretariat of the  
20 Pacific Regional Environment Programme, to the Office of Congresswoman  
21 Bordallo, and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga'lahaen Guåhan.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
OF *I MINA' TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THIS DAY  
OF JULY 2013.**

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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
Speaker

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**RORY J. RESPICIO**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary