

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	Date Adopted
329-33 (COR)	B. J.F. Cruz	Relative to expressing <i>I Liheslaturan Guåhan's</i> unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.	04/07/16 10:11 a.m.		04/07/16	The Sponsor	05/23/16 9:00 a.m.	06/14/16 7:31 a.m.	

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE
155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

JUN 13 2016

The Honorable Judith T. Won Pat
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
33rd Guam Legislature
155 Hesler Place
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

2016 JUN 14 AM 7:31
WUP

Rory J. Respicio

VIA: The Honorable Rory J. Respicio
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Committee Report on Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced

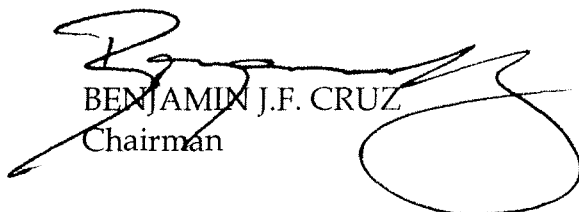
Dear Speaker Won Pat:

Transmitted herewith is the Report of the Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication on Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

Committee votes are as follows:

- 9 TO DO PASS
- TO NOT PASS
- TO REPORT OUT ONLY
- TO ABSTAIN
- TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE

Sincerely,


BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Chairman

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

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COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced

“Relative to expressing I Liheslaturan Guåhan’s unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

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I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagatña, Guam 96910

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JUN 13 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members
FROM: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication

SUBJECT: Committee Report on Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

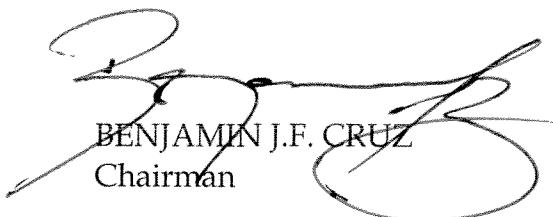
This report includes the following:

- Committee Vote Sheet
- Committee Report Digest
- Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Copies of Submitted Testimony & Supporting Documents
- COR Referral of Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)

- Notices of Public Hearing
- Public Hearing Agenda
- Related News Reports

Please take the appropriate action on the attached voting sheet. Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Chairman

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
 senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
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COMMITTEE VOTING SHEET

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), As Introduced – B.J.F. Cruz – “Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan’s* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS	SIGNATURE	TO DO PASS	TO NOT PASS	TO REPORT OUT ONLY	TO ABSTAIN	TO PLACE IN INACTIVE FILE
CRUZ, BENJAMIN J.F. Chairperson		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
AGUON, Jr., FRANK B. Vice Chairperson 4/10/14		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
WON PAT, Ed.D., JUDITH T. Speaker and Ex-Officio Member						
MUÑA BARNES, TINA ROSE Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
RODRIGUEZ, Jr., DENNIS G. Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6/13				
SAN NICOLAS, MICHAEL, F.Q. Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
UNDERWOOD, Ph.D., NERISSA B. Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
ADA, V. ANTHONY Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
MORRISON, THOMAS A. Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
TORRES, MARY C. Member		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				



COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) - B. J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) was introduced by Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz on April 7 2016, and subsequently referred to the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** on the same day.

The Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication convened a Public Hearing on Monday May 23, 2016 beginning at 9:00 AM in the Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room. The hearing for **Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)** began at 9:06 AM and ended at 9:20 AM.

Public Notice Requirements

All legal requirements for public notices were met, with requests for publication sent to all media and all Senators on May 16, 2016 and May 21, 2016 as well as on the Legislature's website. Copies of the hearing notices are appended to the report.

Senators Present

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, *Chairperson*

Appeared Before the Committee

Mr. James Gillan, *Director, Guam Department of Public Health*

Mr. Peter Cruz, *Certified Tobacco Cessation Facilitator, Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center*

Submitted Written Testimony

None

II. TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication ("Committee"), called the Public Hearing of Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)

to order. The Chairman noted that the resolution represented his third measure, urging Congress to pass the United Nations World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC, "the Treaty," "the Convention").

Chairman Cruz called upon Mr. James Gillan, Director of the Guam Department of Public Health, to present testimony before the Committee.

Mr. Gillan thanked Chairman Cruz for the opportunity to speak in support Resolution No. 329-33 (COR):

"[The WHO-FCTC] is a part of the love-hate relationship with America sometimes. Some things [the United States is] very supportive [of]; others, not so much. I support urging the [United States] Congress to sign this treaty. Otherwise, we can't do much about restricting access to tobacco products other than taxing and I know you're considering raising the age again and that's another matter for later. I was very disappointed in Washington in February [when] we have our annual Association of State and Territory Health Officials meeting, because it's an opportunity also to speak to representatives and senators.

"Of course, we don't have any of those so it doesn't really matter to us but we also get to visit with a lot of top federal agency [representatives]. One of the groups was the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which was very slow in getting their e-cigarette regulations out, three (3) years after they said they would do it. But I asked their 'tobacco lady' why this treaty hasn't been dealt with, [and] I think she's just counting the days until the Administration changes. She just said, 'well, nobody's brought [the Treaty] to the Congress to vote on it,' and I reminded her that when President Obama was a Senator, he was pushing very hard for his colleagues to sign this Convention. But I noted that as soon as he made it to the Oval Office, that discussion just stopped.

"So I think we all know that 'big-money' and 'big-tobacco' talks. The whole idea about capitalism and free-enterprise and the fact that by implementing the Framework that we could demand that the advertisements disappear from the windows of the mom-and-pop stores; that we could require plain packaging on tobacco products; that we could designate them to the rear of the structure somewhere. Until the Treaty is signed, it probably never will be. I don't know what else we can do outside of spending more money on education [or] more projects that that the [Department of Behavioral Health and Wellness] does. We have had some impact, but now we're seeing, of course, a rise in young people using E-cigarettes and we're going to have to deal with that eventually also. So I endorse [the resolution] one-hundred percent (100%) every time you introduce it.

I admire you for your tenacity. I think you don't mince any words in any of the resolutions because I think it has to be said that way, that we express a lot of frustration, but we can have some immediate effect on access to tobacco products if we could have this Convention signed. But unfortunately, I don't think in our life time and probably in our children's lifetimes, it's going to happen. Thank you."

Chairman Cruz thanked Director Gillan for his testimony and made further statement on the resolution:

"This document was prepared by the World Health Organization over fifteen (15) years [ago]. It's interesting that we have the [Festival of the Pacific Arts (FestPac)] here because, of the twenty-seven (27) nations that are here for FestPac, there are only two delegations that know of or have ever or still see tobacco advertising in their stores or have cigarette packages that aren't plain or don't have a photograph of a cancerous mouth or throat.

"Every single country in this region, [except] for Guam and the CNMI (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) because we are both U.S. Territories, have signed the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control and all of them have been able to control tobacco, its dissemination, [and] its sale, as a consequence. Unfortunately, [because Guam is] a U.S. Territory, we can't do those kinds of things on our own, separately. Or at least if we attempt to, there are responses: 'you can't do this' because of some perceived constitutional right to advertising free-speech to be able to put up whatever sign you want.

"There are one-hundred-ninety-six (196) countries and one-hundred-eighty (180) have signed the Treaty. And in this area, the only two countries that haven't signed it are the United States and Indonesia. Even China has signed the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control. China and both Koreas and Taiwan and Japan—who we think are the biggest smokers—have signed the Framework Convention. But the United States, because of the tobacco lobby, cannot and will not do it. And for the listening audience, the reference made by Mr. Gillan was that in 2005 a young freshmen Senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, sent a letter to the then-President Bush asking that President Bush send the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control to the Senate for ratification by himself and his colleagues but he is now in his last six (6) months of his Administration. And this Senator, now the lame-duck President of the United States, is unwilling to do that and it really is an impediment to all the efforts being made by [the Department of] Public Health and [the Department of] Mental Health to try to address tobacco, its addiction, and its consequent cost on health in our communities."

Having concluded his statement, **Chairman Cruz** called on Mr. Peter Cruz to present his testimony before the Committee.

Mr. Peter Cruz thanked the Committee and noted that it was his second time testifying on the matter:

“About ten (10) plus years ago, I had an opportunity to represent Guam in a World Health Organization FCTC regional meeting in Fiji. All those little minute laws that FCTC has really does bring down the rate of smoking in the areas. One of the biggest battles in recent years is just what you had mentioned: the picture labeling on cigarette packages. Countries have even gone to non-labeling at all. All you have is just a pack that has nothing on it in. Some countries advertise the health warnings and all. It is so important that we continue this fight because of [where] Guam is located.

“We are so close to far-east Asia, where they are typically the biggest producers of tobacco products and you can still go to any of the mom-and-pop stores and they’re still selling black-market cigarettes. So it’s so important that we do, if not as part with the United States, [but of] our own accord as an island continue to get on the bandwagon. And it’s just a shame. Like you said, you could go to all these other islands that are representing FestPac and their smoking levels are so much lower than Guam’s. Just two (2) years ago in 2014 CDC (Centers for Disease Control) [listed] Guam as the highest rate of smoking in the nation. We are so close to Asian countries which typically has some of the highest rate of smokers. And so it’s just a domino-effect. The health status of our people continue to break our island. It’s a shame. When I had spent two (2) months from February to April at St. Luke’s Medical Center, Global City, it’s just so disheartening to see people go there with health issues that are tobacco related. There was even one gentlemen who had a kidney transplant and, literally several weeks after the operation transplant, his wife was wheeling him out to right side of the entrance because that’s typically where the smoke-area is, so he could have a smoke. So please continue on the fight. Thank you.”

Chairman Cruz thanked Mr. Peter Cruz and Director Gillan for their testimonies. On account that there were neither additional questions from the Committee nor other individuals present to testify, the Chairman considered Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) as heard.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication to which was referred **Resolution No. 329-99 (COR) - B. J.F. Cruz** - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the U.S. Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC" hereby submits these findings to *I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and reports out **Resolution No. 329-99 (COR)**, with a recommendation TO DO PASS.

**I MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÃHAN
2016 (SECOND) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz

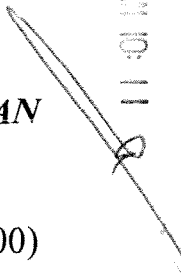
Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guãhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.

BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA' TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÃHAN*:

WHEREAS, Every year, tobacco takes the lives of six million (6,000,000) people across the world. Ten percent (10%), or six hundred thousand (600,000) of those that die annually are merely victims of second-hand smoke (World Health Organization, 2015). In the United States alone, forty two thousand (42,000) of the four hundred and eighty thousand (480,000) people that die every year from smoking-related diseases did not use tobacco directly, but rather, were involuntarily exposed to cigarette smoke (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015); and

WHEREAS, In a 2011 report analyzing various countries' current tobacco control policies, the World Health Organization projected that in fifteen (15) years, the annual global mortality rate will rise to approximately eight (8) million people, eighty percent (80%) of whom will be residents of low and middle-income nations; and

2016 APR - 7 AM 10:11 Q



1 **WHEREAS**, In addition to risk of mortality, there are significant health
2 risks and chronic diseases associated with direct tobacco use and exposure to
3 second-hand smoke. According to a 2014 report from the U.S. Surgeon General,
4 smokers, and those exposed to second-hand smoke, suffer a wide range of chronic
5 diseases, such as diabetes; cancer of the liver, lung, and prostate; respiratory
6 diseases, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema,
7 bronchitis, and tuberculosis; and cardiovascular diseases including aneurysms,
8 stroke, and coronary heart disease.

9 **WHEREAS**, The U.S. Surgeon General (2014) further reports that, to
10 combat the harmful effects of tobacco use, the United States spends approximately
11 one hundred seventy six billion dollars (\$176,000,000,000) on public and private
12 healthcare, thirty billion nine hundred million dollars (\$30,900,000,000) on annual
13 federal and local government Medicaid payments, and forty-five billion dollars
14 (\$45,000,000,000) on Medicare. This tremendous expense is further compounded
15 by the one hundred and fifty one billion dollars (\$151,000,000,000) the U.S. loses
16 every year, due to tobacco's effect on work productivity. According to a 2014
17 report published by the *American Journal on Preventative Medicine*, this colossal
18 cost leaves each American household with an annual tax burden of nine hundred
19 and fifty six dollars (\$956); and

20 **WHEREAS**, Although these statistics reflect the economic strain of tobacco
21 addiction, the tobacco industry remains an unrelenting and profitable enterprise in
22 the United States, with reports from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (2015)
23 indicating that, each year, over nine billion six hundred million dollars
24 (\$9,600,000,000) go toward tobacco advertisements;

25 **WHEREAS**, According to the *Journal of National Cancer Institute* (1995),
26 this relentless tobacco advertisement is a stranglehold on our nation's youth, who
27 are more vulnerable to smoking, and more inclined to smoke after exposure to
28 advertisements rather than from peer influence. Consequently, as reported by the

1 *Journal of the American Medical Association* (1998), tobacco marketing is
2 responsible for over thirty percent (30%) of underage tobacco “experimentation”
3 with sixteen and four tenths percent (16.4%) of boys and fifteen percent (15%) of
4 girls in high school using tobacco products (National Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
5 2013) and contributing one billion two hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) in
6 cigarette packet sales (*American Journal of Public Health*, 1999); and

7 **WHEREAS**, An analysis of tobacco use on the island of Guam reveals
8 further startling statistics, in comparison to stateside data. Of all the U.S. states and
9 territories, Guam maintains the highest rate of tobacco consumption, with
10 approximately thirty percent (30%) of the population smoking daily (Henry J.
11 Kaiser Family Foundation, 2014). Among our island’s youth, sixty-six percent
12 (66%) are victims of involuntary exposure to cigarette smoke (Guam Behavioral
13 Health and Wellness Center [GBHWC]). This astonishingly high rate is
14 responsible for the death of at least one individual per day on Guam (Guam
15 Prevention Education and Community Empowerment Office [PEACE]). Moreover,
16 tobacco consumption causes sixty percent (60%) of Guam’s cancer cases
17 (GBHWC), and leaves the Chamorro, Guam’s indigenous people, with the highest
18 rate of lung and oral cancer (PEACE); and

19 **WHEREAS**, These statistics reflect the horrific reality of the global tobacco
20 epidemic and demonstrate the demand for sweeping comprehensive reform. In
21 2003, the World Health Organization, in recognition of the devastating effects of
22 tobacco addiction across the world as well as the rampant growth of tobacco
23 consumption in middle and low income countries, adopted the Framework
24 Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FTCT, “the Convention,” “the Treaty”),
25 the first treaty sponsored by the World Health Organization; and

26 **WHEREAS**, After opening in 2003, the WHO-FTCT swiftly gained the
27 signatures of one hundred and sixty eight (168) countries, or Signatories, making it
28 a historic, international achievement. By February 27, 2005, when the FTCT

1 entered into force, all countries that had signed and ratified the Treaty were bound
2 to full implementation of the Treaty under international law; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Currently, there are one hundred and eighty (180) countries, or
4 ninety percent (90%) of the global population, that have since signed and ratified
5 the Treaty, and are, therefore, legally bound Parties to the Convention; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The WHO-FTC provides a series of “regulative measures” to
7 reduce the supply and demand of tobacco across the globe. By providing policy
8 guidelines, which include increasing the price and tax of tobacco products,
9 prohibiting tobacco marketing and underage sales, and mandating ingredient
10 disclosure of tobacco products in the participating countries of the Convention, the
11 WHO-FTCT empowers participating countries to achieve effective results in
12 reducing the stranglehold of tobacco addiction in their respective jurisdictions; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Moreover, to raise awareness on the consequences of tobacco
14 consumption and promote policy surveillance, the WHO-FTCT also calls for
15 continual research, dissemination of findings, and technical assistance for
16 implementation of evidence-based practices for each Party’s respective
17 populations; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Eleven (11) years after entry into force, the WHO-FTCT has
19 made significant achievements within participating countries in the Western
20 Pacific Region. According to the World Health Organization (2015), since
21 implementing the Treaty, nationwide smoke-free legislation was passed in
22 Vietnam, Cambodia and Mongolia while China, Lao People's Democratic
23 Republic, Philippines, Malaysia and Fiji have passed several smoke-free policies at
24 the municipal level; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Since becoming Party to the Convention, Australia has enacted
26 radical change relative to tobacco advertisement through the Tobacco Plain
27 Packaging Act in 2011. As a result, Australia became the first country mandating
28 plain cigarette packaging, quickly inspiring other countries to follow suit (World

1 Health Organization, 2015). According to the Australian Government's
2 Department of Health, tobacco clearances declined eleven percent (11%) following
3 the enactment of the Tobacco Plain Packaging Act. Likewise, in three years,
4 Australia witnessed a three percent (3%) reduction in prevalence of tobacco use
5 among individuals fourteen (14) years and above; and

6 **WHEREAS**, According to the World Health Organization, similar
7 successful legislation in other Parties to the Convention include the enactment of
8 pictorial health warnings on cigarette cartons in the countries of the Philippines,
9 Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Samoa, Singapore,
10 Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Vietnam (World Health Organization, 2015);
11 Tobacco marketing, including point-of-sale advertising, has also been banned in
12 the countries of Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam (World Health Organization, 2015);
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, Despite signing the Treaty prior to the signature deadline in
15 2004, the United States has yet to ratify the Treaty, joining only six other countries
16 (Argentina, Cuba, Haiti, Morocco, Mozambique, and Switzerland) that have signed
17 but are not Party to the Convention and, therefore, not legally bound to the
18 Convention's policy guidelines; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Several efforts to send the WHO-FCTC for ratification to the
20 U.S. Senate, were made, including in 2005, under the advocacy of then Senator
21 Barack Obama to President George W. Bush. These efforts were ultimately
22 ignored and have failed to revive under President Barack Obama's past and current
23 terms; and

24 **WHEREAS**, On January 12, 2016, in his final State of the Union address,
25 President Obama declared his commitment to fighting cancer in the United States
26 by passionately proposing to "make America the country that cures cancer, once
27 and for all." As a result, the President tasked Vice President Joe Biden to chair
28 "Mission Control," a national initiative to expedite cancer research by expanding

1 both public and private resources and increasing access to data among “cancer
2 fighters,” comprised of scientists, researchers, and physicians; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Vice President Biden, whose personal experience with the loss
4 of his son to cancer informed his public pursuit of a cancer cure, repeatedly spoke
5 on the moral imperative to fight for millions of Americans whose loved ones have
6 been personally affected by the deadly disease. In his efforts to spearhead this
7 initiative, the Vice President has visited the Abramson Cancer Center at the
8 University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, spoken at the World
9 Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and continues to meet with several key
10 stakeholders and legislators regarding federal funding for cancer research; and

11 **WHEREAS**, According to the American Cancer Society, lung cancer deaths
12 surpass all other cancer deaths in America, and killed one hundred and fifty nine
13 thousand two hundred and sixty (159,260) people in 2014 alone. As the leading
14 preventable form of cancer in the world, this smoking-induced cancer warrants
15 significant attention and calls for a consolidated action plan that extends beyond
16 national initiatives; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Therefore, if President Obama and Vice President Biden
18 sincerely seek to fight cancer, as they have passionately proclaimed, President
19 Obama and the U.S. Senate must unequivocally champion the United States’
20 participation in the WHO-FTCT to eradicate tobacco addiction in the United States
21 and across the world; and

22 **WHEREAS**, In the face of such overwhelming evidence for tobacco
23 control, the United States, in its negligence to ratify the Treaty, and therefore,
24 legally bind itself to the Convention’s policy guidelines, has not only failed to
25 maintain its role as the global leader of tobacco reform, but has also obstructed
26 progress and justice for U.S. citizens dying and suffering chronic diseases derived
27 from tobacco; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Despite Guam’s local policymakers, in recognition of the
2 startling statistics on the island and across the world, implementing legislation on
3 tobacco control, including increasing tobacco taxes (Guam Public Law No. 30-80);
4 banning underage tobacco sales and distribution (P.L. 28-170; P.L. 32-160);
5 developing early intervention, mentorship, and Tobacco Cessation programs (P.L.
6 31-132); and prohibiting smoking in public places (P.L. 33-121), the people of
7 Guam have been unjustly prevented from implementing comprehensive reform due
8 to the United States’ failure to ratify the FCTC; and

9 **WHEREAS**, In consideration of the inexcusable deaths and diseases
10 derived from tobacco that continue across the world, the people of Guam and their
11 duly elected representatives from the Thirty-Third (33rd) Guam Legislature,
12 urgently call upon the United States to fight this global tobacco epidemic; now
13 therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
15 hereby support the implementation and guidelines of the World Health
16 Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on Guam, in the United
17 States, and throughout the world; and be it further

18 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
19 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that President Barack Obama
20 submit the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
21 to the United States Senate for ratification prior to the Senate’s fall recess; and be it
22 further

23 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
24 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the United States Senate
25 ratify the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
26 prior to their fall recess; and be it further

27 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* certify, and the
28 Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the

1 same be thereafter transmitted to the to the Honorable Barack Obama, President
2 of the United States; to the Honorable Vice President Joseph R. Biden, Vice
3 President of the United States; to the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States
4 Secretary of State; to the Honorable Samantha Power, United States Ambassador
5 to the United Nations; to the Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the United
6 States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority
7 Leader of the United States Senate; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority
8 Leader, United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Lamar
9 Alexander, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
10 Committee; to Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health
11 Organization; to the Honorable Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam
12 Delegate to the U.S. House of Representative; and to the Honorable Edward J.B.
13 Calvo, *I Maga 'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE ____
DAY OF APRIL 2016.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary

SENATOR BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ, VICE SPEAKER

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
 senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THE THIRTY-THIRD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910
 T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

9:00 AM, Monday, May 23, 2016

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION	POSITION		TESTIMONY		PHONE NO.	EMAIL ADDRESS
		SUPPORT	OPPOSE	WRITTEN	ORAL		
Peter Cruz	NAD Convention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	488 4500	
Vic Onyiah	DPHCS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	725 7303	
JAMES GILMAN	DPHCS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	735 7101	
Ted Nelson	ActPoint	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	72 70 355	
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COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan • The 33rd Guam Legislature

155 Hesler Place, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 • www.guamlegislature.com

E-mail: roryforguam@gmail.com • Tel: (671)472-7679 • Fax: (671)472-3547

Senator
Rory J. Respicio
CHAIRPERSON
MAJORITY LEADER

April 7, 2016

Senator
Thomas C. Ada
VICE CHAIRPERSON
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

MEMORANDUM


Speaker
Judith T.P. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Member

To: Rennae Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

Vice-Speaker
Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Member

Attorney Therese M. Terlaje
Legislative Legal Counsel

Legislative Secretary
Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Member

From: Senator Rory J. Respicio 
Chairperson of the Committee on Rules

Senator
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
Member

Subject: Referral of Resolution No. 329-33(COR)

Senator
Frank Blas Aguon, Jr.
Member

As Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding my referral of Resolution No. 329-33(COR). Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred, in my name, to the respective sponsor, as shown on the attachment.

Senator
Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Member

I also request that the same be forwarded to all Senators of *I Mina'trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Senator
Nerissa Bretania Underwood
Member

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact our office at 472-7679.

V. Anthony Ada
MINORITY LEADER

Si Yu'os ma'åse!

Mary C. Torres
MINORITY MEMBER

Attachment

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guáhan
Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	Date Adopted
329-33 (COR)	B. J.F. Cruz	Relative to expressing I Liheslaturan Guáhan's unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.	04/07/16 10:11 a.m.		4/7/2016	The Sponsor			



Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – May 23, 2016

Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

Mon, May 16, 2016 at 9:00 AM

To: PH Notice <phnotice@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>, Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, "Sergeant-at-Arms (Legislature)" <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: reporters@kuam.com, sabrina@kuam.com, jason@kuam.com, krystal@kuam.com, joan@kuam.com,

kenq@kuam.com, isa@kuam.com, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, kjdaly@guampdn.com, sraymundo@guampdn.com,

lcmartinez@guampdn.com, jsantotoma@guampdn.com, editor@postguam.com, gerry@postguam.com,

gerrypartido@gmail.com, jackie@postguam.com, john@postguam.com, robert@postguam.com, marvic@postguam.com,

news@k57.com, clynt@spbguam.com, janela@spbguam.com, roselle@spbguam.com, joanna@spbguam.com,

blake@spbguam.com, tim@spbguam.com, parroyo@k57.com, phill@k57.com, publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com,

managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, assist_editor@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter1@glimpsesofofguam.com,

reporter4@glimpsesofofguam.com

May 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing – May 23, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at **9:00 AM** on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, in the **I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room** with the following schedule:

9:00 AM - PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) – B.J.F. Cruz – “Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*’s unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”

Testimonies may be submitted via hand delivery to the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz at the Guam Legislature; via postal mail to 155 Hesler Street, Hagåtña Guam 96910; via facsimile to 477-2522; or via e-mail to senator@senatorbjcruz.com. Please submit testimonies at least one day prior to the date of the hearing.

All government activities, programs, and services are accessible for people with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Should you or interested parties require assistance or special accommodations to fully participate in this public hearing, please contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521 or via e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

cc: COR
Sgt-at-Arms
MIS
Clerks
Media

—
Dani Reyes
Policy Analyst

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guáhan


T 671-477-2520 | F 671-477-2522

<http://www.senatorbjcruz.com>

3 attachments

 **FIRST NOTICE MEMO PH 05232016.pdf**
859K

 **FIRST NOTICE PR PH 05232016.pdf**
861K

 **Resolution 329-33.pdf**
6717K

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

May 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members/All Senators
From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearing - May 23, 2016

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at **9:00 AM on Monday, May 23, 2016**, in the ***I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room*** with the following schedule:

9:00 AM - PUBLIC HEARING

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbicruz.com | www.senatorbicruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 16, 2016

FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

In accordance with the Open Government Law, P.L. 24-109, relative to notice for public meetings, let this release serve as five (5) days' notice for Public Hearing by the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** scheduled on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, in the Guam Legislature Hearing Room in Hagåtña, on the following:

9:00 AM - PUBLIC HEARING

- **Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)** – B.J.F. Cruz – “Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”

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Individuals requiring assistance or special accommodations should contact Mr. Carlo J. Branch at the Office of the Vice Speaker at 477-2521, or by e-mail at carlo.branch@senatorbjcruz.com.

###



Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – May 23, 2016

Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

Sat, May 21, 2016 at 9:00 AM

To: PH Notice <phnotice@guamlegislature.org>

Cc: "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>, Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, "Sergeant-at-Arms (Legislature)" <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: reporters@kuam.com, sabrina@kuam.com, jason@kuam.com, krystal@kuam.com, joan@kuam.com, kenq@kuam.com, isa@kuam.com, slimiaco@guampdn.com, kjdaly@guampdn.com, sraymundo@guampdn.com, lcmartinez@guampdn.com, jsantotoma@guampdn.com, editor@postguam.com, gerry@postguam.com, gerrypartido@gmail.com, jackie@postguam.com, john@postguam.com, robert@postguam.com, marvic@postguam.com, news@k57.com, clynt@spbguam.com, janela@spbguam.com, roselle@spbguam.com, joanna@spbguam.com, blake@spbguam.com, tim@spbguam.com, parroyo@k57.com, phill@k57.com, publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com, managingeditor@glimpsesofofguam.com, assist_editor@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter1@glimpsesofofguam.com, reporter4@glimpsesofofguam.com, yrengiil@gmail.com, jonfernandez@gdoe.net, gccpresident@guamcc.edu, raunderwood@ugvam.uog.edu, catcastro44@gmail.com, james.gillan@dphss.guam.gov, marisha.artero@cancer.org

May 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members / All Senators

From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – May 23, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at **9:00 AM** on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, in the **I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room**, on the following:

9:00 AM - World Health Organization - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) – B.J.F. Cruz – “Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*’s unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

cc: COR
Sgt-at-Arms
MIS
Clerks
Media

–
Dani Reyes
Policy Analyst

Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz

I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

T 671-477-2520 | F 671-477-2522

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3 attachments

 **Resolution 329-33.pdf**
6717K

 **SECOND NOTICE MEMO PH 05232016.pdf**
192K

 **SECOND NOTICE PR PH 05232016.pdf**
196K

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbjcruz.com | www.senatorbjcruz.com



I Mina'trentai Tres na Liheslaturan Guåhan

THE 33RD GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Place, Suite 107, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 477-2520/1 | F: (671) 477-2522

May 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

To: All Members/ All Senators
From: Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Chairman

Re: **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing - May 23, 2016**

Håfa Adai! The Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication will conduct a Public Hearing beginning at 9:00 AM on Monday, May 23, 2016, in the *I Liheslatura Public Hearing Room*, on the following:

World Health Organization - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

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We look forward to your attendance and participation.

VICE SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ

Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication
senator@senatorbicruz.com | www.senatorbicruz.com



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 21, 2016

SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Open Government Law, P.L. 24-109, relative to notice for public meetings, let this release serve as forty-eight (48) hours' notice for a Public Hearing by the **Committee on Appropriations and Adjudication** scheduled on **Monday, May 23, 2016**, in the Guam Legislature Hearing Room in Hagåtña, on the following:

9:00 AM - World Health Organization - Framework Convention on Tobacco Control:

- **Resolution No. 329-33 (COR)** - B.J.F. Cruz - "Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC."

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###



Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearing – May 23, 2016

Yoichi Rengiil <yrengiil@gmail.com>

Mon, May 23, 2016 at 7:41 AM

To: Dani Reyes <danireyes@senatorbjcruz.com>

Cc: PH Notice <phnotice@guamlegislature.org>, "Senator Rory J. Respicio" <cor@guamlegislature.org>, Clerks <clerks@guamlegislature.org>, "Sergeant-at-Arms (Legislature)" <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Management Information System <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Rowena Andrade <ubuog1992@gmail.com>, "MS. KIMBERLY ANN L TAITANO" <kaltaitano@triton.uog.edu>, Arman Burgos <armanburgos@gmail.com>, Gian Paras <gianparasedu@hotmail.com>, Jonesha Fernandez <jonesha97@gmail.com>, "Benjamin J.F. Cruz" <senator@senatorbjcruz.com>

Hafa Adai,

This is to acknowledge, with gratitude, the receipt of this email/notice of Public Hearing on the proposed legislation, Resolution No. 329-33 by Vice Speaker BJ Cruz. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public hearing at this time because I have previous engagements. However, our TRIO Upward Bound students organized a petition to support the intent of this resolution after Vice Speaker Cruz spoke to our students about a year or so ago. I am happy to note that Vice Speaker Cruz gave an excellent presentation to our Upward Bound students that generated a lot of interest on their part to initiate the petition. We subsequently submitted the petition with signatures and a letter indicating our support of the proposed resolution. The petition could be used as our written testimony in support of this resolution.

I am copying our Upward Bound staff and the leaders of our students who worked very hard to obtain signatures of their friends, classmates, parents and others in our community in support of increasing the smoking age to 21 years old. I am rather sad that it took over a year to finally hold a public hearing of this resolution at a time when our students are now out of school since it is summer plus the activities of the Festival of Pacific Arts. This means they are, unfortunately, unable to attend the public hearing at this time.

Sincerely,

Yoichi K. Rengiil

[Quoted text hidden]

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"The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it."

--Theodore Roosevelt

=====
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Ina, Diskubre, Setbe

Yoichi K. Rengiil
Director, TRIO Programs
University of Guam
UOG Main Station
Mangilao, Guam 96923
Tel: (671) 735-2245/2246/2249
Cell: (671) 929-TRIO (8746)
Fax: (671)734-7514

The University of Guam is an equal opportunity employer and a tobacco and smoke free campus.

Public Hearing Notice Listserv
phnotice@guamlegislature.org (Media, All Senators, and Staff)

Updated: May 9, 2016

action@weareguahan.com	cor@guamlegislature.org	joan@kuam.com
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brantforguam@gmail.com	flores@senatorada.org	kstonews@ite.net
bruce.lloyd.media@gmail.com	frank.blasjr@gmail.com	kurtzman.guamlegis@gmail.com
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carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil	guadalupeignacio@gmail.com	llmatthews@guampdn.com
ccastro@guamchamber.com.gu	guam.avon@gmail.com	louise@tonyada.com
ccharfauros@guamag.org	guam@pstripes.osd.mil	m.salaila@yahoo.com
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PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Monday, May 23, 2016

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room • Hagåtña, Guam

9:00 AM

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION - FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Resolution No. 329-33 (COR) – B.J.F. Cruz – “Relative to expressing *I Liheslaturan Guåhan’s* unequivocal support for the United Nations World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) in its efforts to address the global tobacco epidemic; and to requesting that the Obama Administration support the WHO-FCTC, and submit it to the United States Senate for ratification; and to further requesting that the U.S. Senate ratify the WHO-FCTC.”



Cruz Calls for U.S. Ratification of Global Tobacco Treaty

PROMISES NEW TOBACCO CONTROL LEGISLATION IF FEDERAL NEGLECT CONTINUES

(April 7, 2016- Hagåtña) If Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz's call to action is answered, Guam and the United States will join the global effort to save the six million lives taken by the tobacco epidemic every year. Resolution No. 329-33 (COR), introduced this morning, is Cruz's latest effort calling for the U.S. Senate's ratification of the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). Established in 2003, FCTC is a historic, international public health treaty binding 180 participating countries to a series of regulatory measures aimed at reducing tobacco addiction across the globe.

According to a [brief](#) published by the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, tobacco takes the life of one individual per day on Guam.¹ Guam also maintains the highest rate of tobacco consumption in the country with approximately 30% of the population smoking daily.² Moreover, tobacco consumption leaves Chamorro people with the highest rate of lung and oral cancer.³

"Tobacco kills more Americans than the total number of U.S. servicemen who died in World War II. On Guam, it kills 365 people a year," said Cruz. *"The rest of the world is fighting to save human lives. We should too."*

While the Vice Speaker has made similar efforts in the past, this time there is a caveat. If the White House fails to submit the FCTC for Senate ratification prior to Congress's fall recess, Cruz will introduce legislation modeled after the FCTC's guidelines.

"In January, President Obama declared that the United States would be the country that cured cancer through the national effort, Mission Control" said Cruz. *"Maybe the President should start by sending a copy of the Treaty to his appointed chairman, the President of the Senate. His name is Joe Biden."*

Currently adopted FCTC guidelines cover an array of policies designed to advance tobacco control in participating countries. Although some of the guidelines fall under federal jurisdiction, and, therefore, can only be achieved through U.S. ratification of the FCTC, several significant FCTC policies—such as increasing the price and tax of tobacco products; mandating smoke-free work and public places; and raising the sale age for tobacco products—can be implemented, or strengthened, through local legislation.

Cruz is no stranger to landmark legislation on tobacco control. The Vice Speaker has successfully passed laws which [increased tobacco taxes](#), [ensured tax parity between smokeless tobacco and cigarettes](#), and [restricted tobacco promotion](#) through discounting schemes. Yet, Cruz notes that the significantly higher rate of tobacco use on Guam over other U.S. jurisdictions demonstrates a demand that more must be done.

"Every day, Big Tobacco hires an army of lawyers, marketing experts, and political consultants to beat 20th century tobacco laws with 21st century tactics," said Cruz. *"When we rest, more of our friends and family become addicted, get, sick, and die."*

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The referenced document is attached. For more information, call the Office of Vice Speaker Benjamin J. F. Cruz at 477-2520.

¹ Tobacco Prevention Brief. Prevention Education and Community Empowerment (PEACE) Office.

[Source: <http://www.peaceguam.org/Data/docs/statistics/PreventionBriefs.pdf>]

² The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. State Health Facts. 2014. [Source: <http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/smoking-adults/#map>]

³ See [1]. [Source: <http://www.peaceguam.org/Data/docs/statistics/PreventionBriefs.pdf>]