

SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO
MAJORITY LEADER

CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON RULES; FEDERAL, FOREIGN & MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS;
HUMAN & NATURAL RESOURCES; AND ELECTION REFORM



I Mina'trentai Dos na Liheslaturan Guåhan
THIRTY-SECOND GUAM LEGISLATURE

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Judith T. WonPat
Speaker
I Mina'trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guahån
155 Hesler Place
Hågatña. Guam 96910

Madame Speaker:

Hafa Adai. The Guam Legislature has proudly adopted a resolution that will ensure greater transparency in our government and we are pleased to inform you that we have included an opportunity for you to take part in this worthwhile initiative.

Rules Resolution 330-32(COR) "Relative to the creation of the Guam Legislative Freedom of Information Advisory Council to promote transparency in the government of Guam" was passed on Friday, March 14, 2014. According to the resolution, you or your designee is invited to be a member of the council.

According to the resolution, the following shall be invited to be members of the Council:

- The Attorney General of Guam or designee;
- The Administrator of the Unified Judiciary of Guam or designee;
- The Executive Director of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* or designee;
- Four members appointed by the Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs and Human & Natural Resources and Election Reform, one of whom shall be a member of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, and three non-legislative citizen members, at least one of whom shall be, or have been, a representative of the news media;
- Three members appointed by the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, at least one of whom shall be or have been a representative of the news media; and one Member of the Legislative Minority. The Speaker shall not appoint a legislative employee in this capacity; and
- Two non-legislative citizen members appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall not be a Government of Guam employee.

The resolution also indicates that members shall be appointed within 30 days of adoption.

The powers and the duties of the Council shall include furnishing upon request, advisory guidelines, and other appropriate information regarding the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (5GCA Chapter 10) and the Open Government Law (5GCA Chapter 8) and any other related laws to any person or agency of the Government of Guam, in an expeditious manner. The council also will conduct training seminars and educational programs for the members and staff of public bodies and other interested persons on the requirements of the laws and shall publish educational materials, as it deems appropriate. The Council will identify within thirty (30) days, all Government of Guam agencies and instrumentalities not in compliance with the provisions of 5GCA Ch. 10 Article 3 §10305 Home Page for Each Department or Agency of Government, and § 10306 Information Required on Official Home Page, and provide a report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. They also shall report annually their activities and findings regarding the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (5GCA Chapter 10) and the Open Government Law (5GCA Chapter 8) and any related laws, including recommendations for changes to the law, to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*.

Once the appointments are made to this Council, the Committee on Rules, Federal, Foreign & Micronesian Affairs and Human & Natural Resources and Election Reform will notify members of their first meeting date and then the Council can move forward following their initial meeting. All meetings will be announced pursuant to the open government law, broadcast live on the legislature's channel, and open to the public.

I am sure you would agree that open government is good government and I look forward to working with you to ensure that we protect our people's right to an open and transparent government. I look forward to your response and have attached a copy of the resolution for your review. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse*.

Very truly yours,



Rory J. Respicio