

I MINA' BENTE ÑEUBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
TWENTY-NINTH GUAM LEGISLATURE
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 68^{EL} (LS)

Introduced by:

A. B. PALACIOS, SR. 

RELATIVE TO REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND THE APPLICATION AND
COVERAGE OF MEDICARE ENTITLEMENTS TO ITS
ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE EARNED THESE
MEDICARE BENEFITS AND WHO CHOOSE TO OBTAIN
QUALITY HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE SERVICES IN
THE PHILIPPINES.

2007
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1 BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' BENTE ÑEUBI NA LIHESLATURAN
2 GUÅHAN:

3 WHEREAS, over the years many of Guam's residents have acquired
4 quality health and medical care services from healthcare clinics and medical
5 hospital facilities in Guam or in various locations throughout the United
6 States, to include Hawaii, Los Angeles-California, Seattle-Washington, etc.,
7 through the application and use of their Medicare health entitlements; and,

8 WHEREAS, in recent years a growing number of Guam residents have
9 sought quality medical care at facilities such as St. Luke's Hospital, Makati
10 Medical Health Center, Asian Hospital, and others, located in the Philippines,
11 which is geographically within close proximity to Guam (with a flight time of
12 slightly over three hours); and

13 WHEREAS, the much closer geographical location of the Philippines
14 medical facilities, combined with the less restrictive cost of medical care and

1 travel expenses, allows for a greater number of Guam patients to have family
2 members and friends accompany them and offer direct supervision or
3 assistance on the medical trip as they receive much-needed healthcare
4 services; and

5 **WHEREAS**, many Guam residents who have earned their U. S.
6 Medicare benefits and entitlements have expressed an interest in obtaining
7 necessary medical treatment in the Philippines, which in most instances result
8 in lower medical treatment costs, lesser travel time, and a reduction in travel
9 expenses; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the level of treatment being administered by some of the
11 medical hospital facilities in the Philippines have been appropriately
12 recognized by medical hospital affiliates in the United States for their
13 provision of good, quality medical care that is equivalent to or better than the
14 minimum medical care standards required in the United States; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Guam residents and U. S. citizens, who are eligible
16 Medicare beneficiaries, should be provided the opportunity to obtain medical
17 and health care services in medical hospitals and facilities of their choice, in
18 compliance with Medicare program requirements; particularly to include
19 medical facilities in the Philippines, as this would result in lower costs and
20 allow for family members to provide necessary support and assistance during
21 this time of personal need; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the United States of America and the Republic of the
23 Philippines have been mutual economic and political partners, friends, and
24 allies for more than one hundred years, whereupon the extension of Medicare

1 entitlements for qualified U. S. citizens receiving medical treatment in the
2 Philippines would further reinforce this relationship and promote the sharing
3 of resources within the healthcare industry; and

4 **WHEREAS**, recent actions and decisions have been made that further
5 recognize the special relationship between the United States of America and
6 the Philippines which include: Filipino veterans who served in the U. S. Army
7 during World War II recently obtained their U. S. citizenship and the benefit
8 of retaining up to 75% of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) when they
9 return to the Philippines; Filipino Veterans have also recently been granted
10 additional healthcare benefits by the U. S. Congress; since July, 2003, U. S.
11 Medicare recipients from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern
12 Marianas Islands who obtain medical care in the Philippines are provided
13 limited reimbursement for specific medical care treatment services that is not
14 available in Guam and the CNMI; and, health insurance companies in the U.
15 S., to include the Tricare health plan for active duty and retired military
16 personnel, have permitted health insurance coverage for medical services
17 obtained in the Philippines; now therefore be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ñuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (*Twenty*
19 *Ninth Guam Legislature*) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam,
20 respectfully request the United States Government, through the U. S.
21 Department of Health and Human Services and the U. S. Congress (if
22 necessary), to extend the application and coverage of Medicare entitlements to
23 its eligible recipients who have earned these Medicare benefits and who
24 choose to obtain quality health and medical care services in the Philippines,

1 consistent with Medicare rules, regulations, quality assurances, cost-
2 effectiveness, and other Medicare program requirements; be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ñuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (Twenty
4 *Ninth Guam Legislature*) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request
5 the support of the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the U.
6 S. House of Representatives, to aggressively pursue this effort in realizing the
7 extension of Medicare healthcare benefits coverage to qualified recipients who
8 receive medical treatment and healthcare services in the Philippines; and to
9 coordinate the timely and effective implementation of this unique and much-
10 needed healthcare service upon its approval by the appropriate U. S.
11 Governmental authorities for the benefit of eligible Guam residents; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
14 Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be
15 thereafter transmitted to The Honorable George W. Bush, President of the
16 United States of America; The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader, United
17 States Senate; The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U. S. House of
18 Representatives; The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate, U. S.
19 House of Representatives; The Honorable Mike Leavitt, Secretary of the
20 United States Department of Health and Human Services; Mr. Tom Scully,
21 Director of the Center for Medicare Services, U. S. Department of Health and
22 Human Services; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahren*
23 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA' BENTE ÑUEBI NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN ON THE DAY OF 2007.**

MARK FORBES
Speaker

RAY TENORIO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature