

**I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 1 (EC)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio  
J.P. Guthertz  
T.R. Muña Barnes  
A.B. Palacios  
V.C. Pangelinan  
D.L.G. Shimizu  
J.T. WonPat

2007 JUN -8 PM 4:57

epm

*Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan for H.R. 2: "To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage," also known as the "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007," currently under consideration in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress; and to respectfully request that the Congress index the Federal minimum wage such that the wage shall annually be adjusted to keep pace with the rate of inflation.*

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:**

**WHEREAS,** the nation's Federal minimum wage has remained at \$5.15 per hour since 1997, while inflation has climbed more than 26% in the same period; a worker receiving the current Federal minimum wage is earning barely 50% of the income necessary to reach the poverty line, the lowest percentage of income versus the poverty line in nearly 50 years; and

**WHEREAS,** Congressional action on H.R. 2, which calls for wage increases to \$5.85 an hour beginning 60 days after the date of enactment of the "Minimum Wage Act of 2007," then to increase to \$6.55 an hour one year later; and to increase to \$7.25 an hour after 24 months, would be a welcome event for the working poor in many of the 50 states and six insular areas; and

**WHEREAS**, 29 states and the District of Columbia have already recognized the serious plight of the working poor and have legislated minimum wages that are set at a higher level than the current Federal minimum wage; the combined population of these areas comprising well more than half of the total population of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of Guam is among the 27 states and insular areas of the United States that do not pay a minimum wage set at a higher level than the Federal minimum wage, so action by the Congress as proposed in H.R. 2 would assist many who live below the poverty line to provide more of the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the island of Guam has a wage-based economy, and a series of debilitating events including the Asian Economic Crisis, a series of destructive typhoons and the closing of several U.S. military bases have all had negative effects on the working class. While inflation across the U.S. rose over 26% since the last minimum wage increase, the effect was much worse in Guam where in a ten year span prior to the last minimum wage increase, the island's inflation rate climbed at a rate over 80%; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the jurisdictions that have chosen to set their own minimum wage at a higher level than the Federal minimum wage also choose to index their minimum wage to the rate of inflation to ensure that employees at the lowest end of the pay scale are provided with some ability to keep up with rising costs; and

**WHEREAS**, *I Mina'bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* respectfully requests that the Congress of the United States index the Federal minimum wage such that the wage shall annually be automatically adjusted to keep pace with the rate of inflation; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express its support for **H.R. 2: "To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage,"** also known as the "**Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007,**" currently under consideration in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully request that the Congress index the Federal minimum wage such that the wage shall annually be adjusted to keep pace with the rate of inflation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress; to the author of H.R. 2, the Honorable George Miller of California; to the Honorable Nancy Pelosi of California, the Speaker of the House; to the Honorable Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, President Pro Tem of the United States Senate; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE      DAY OF JANUARY 2007.**