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

Resolution No. 103 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Judith Paulette Guthertz
David L.G. Shimizu
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Edward J.B. Calvo
James V. Espaldon
Mark Forbes
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
v. c. pangelinan
J. T. Won Pat

R. J. Respicio

Relative to stating the sense of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* that the location of Guam's new landfill has already been determined by Public Law 23-95 and that the selection of *Dandan/Layon* area for a landfill is contrary to existing Guam law, is in violation of the Federal Consent Decree, and also ignores the necessity of developing the water resources within the *Inarajan* Watershed for future use including addressing the need for as much as a 25% increase in the need for fresh water for the upcoming military buildup; and to request that the information contained herein and attached as exhibits, be included in the court record of Civil Case No. 02-00022 before the District Court of Guam, relative to the Consent Decree to close the *Ordot* Dump and open a new sanitary landfill in Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, in an Order filed in the U.S. District Court on December 14, 2007 by Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, the Judge listed ten (10) issues relative to United States of America v. Government of Guam, *Civil Case No. 02-00022*, concerning the Consent Decree to close the Ordot Dump and open a new sanitary landfill, the ten (10) issues including those that the Judge felt were essential to ensure that the government of Guam come into compliance with the Consent Decree; and

WHEREAS, upon review, it is apparent that several of Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood's rulings were made without relevant information pertinent to the ten (10) issues as well as to the entire Consent Decree; information that may not have been made a part of the court record; and

WHEREAS, Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Judiciary, Natural Resources, Infrastructure and Cultural Affairs, Senator James V. Espaldon and several minority party members of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* are also members of the Solid Waste Law Review Commission (LRC), which was established by Executive Order 2007-09, promulgated by *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* on July 23, 2007, in response to a U.S. Magistrate Judge's recommendation that such a Commission should be created to be "tasked with developing a general legislative policy ... with regard to the closure of the Ordot Dump and the construction of a new landfill...;" and

WHEREAS, in his recommendation to Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood, the Magistrate Judge recommended that the LRC draft legislation to create a public corporation that would assume and perform the functions of the Solid Waste Management Division of the Department of Public Works, and transform DPW's Solid Waste Management Division into an entity "that can effectively handle all

aspects of solid waste management without sacrificing the health and safety of the people of Guam;" and

WHEREAS, Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes, an alternate minority party Legislative member to the LRC, wrote to Attorney General Alicia G. Limtiaco on November 23, 2007 and December 5, 2007, concerning the Consent Decree, and making specific requests to the Attorney General requesting that pertinent information be made available to the U.S. District Court and Judge Tydingco-Gatewood; and

WHEREAS, in response to Senator Muña Barnes' requests, a December 14, 2007 letter from the Office of the Attorney General was hand delivered to the Senator by Deputy Attorney General J. Patrick Mason stating that the Office of the Attorney General was declining to make such information available to the Court, writing that: "Pursuant to our Guam Rules of Professional Conduct and ethics rules to which we, as legal counsel, must adhere, and the differing positions taken by the Executive and Legislative branches in this matter; the Office (of the Attorney General) is not able to file a motion on your behalf to place your letter(s) into the record;" and

WHEREAS, in the December 14 letter, Deputy Attorney General Mason also wrote that "Senator James Espaldon, Chair of the (LRC), has already made an appearance in Court regarding the case and has stated the LRC's position regarding the site of the proposed landfill and other matters the LRC has discussed ... The Chair of the LRC ... may be allowed to again address the Court at future status hearings;" and

WHEREAS, based on the suggestion by the Deputy Attorney General, Minority Representative to the LRC Senator Rory J. Respicio and Senators Muña Barnes and Judith P. Guthertz, who is also an alternate LRC member, have written to LRC Chair Senator Espaldon enclosing letters and information that they wish to make part of the Court record; and

WHEREAS, in his meeting with Senator Muña Barnes, Deputy AG Mason also verbally stated that *I Maga'Lahen Guåhan* (the Governor of Guam), a party to the District Court proceedings, could also make documents a part of the Court record based on a request from the LRC, and that a Resolution stating the sense of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* may also be considered by the Court; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslatura finds that there are a number of troubling issues related to the proposed Dandan/Layon site, from the violation of existing Guam law, to proposing the endangerment of existing fresh water resources, to the possibility of expenditures contrary to Guam procurement law, and although LRC Chair Senator Espaldon has been asked to present some documents to the District Court, I Liheslatura believes that only in a resolution approved by a majority of its members can the full measure of I Liheslatura's intent be known; and

WHEREAS, *I Liheslatura* makes the following findings relative to the site-selection process and the Consent Decree:

Finding 1: The selection of the *Dandan/Layon* site is contrary to Guam law. Public Law 23-64 requires Guam EPA to prepare "legislative action as may be required for new disposal sites." According to Title 10 GCA §51103(a)(6), the next landfill site must be selected by *I Liheslatura*. Therefore, the site-selection process contained in the Consent Decree does not comply with Guam law as it excludes *I Liheslatura* from the site-selection process.

Finding 2: Public Law 23-95 requires the landfill to be located at Guatali or Mala'a or both. In accordance with §51103(a)(6), I Liheslaturan Guåhan selected Guatali or Mala'a or both as the location for the new landfill via Public Law 23-95. This Law has never been repealed and is still in effect. In San Miguel v. Dept. of Public Works, CV 892-04, taxpayer citizens are seeking to enjoin government of Guam from proceeding with the Dandan site

in light of P.L. 23-95. Although the trial court denied an injunction motion primarily on the basis that it was deferring to the administrative agency, the argument in favor of the validity of P.L. 23-95 is that an administrative agency, by employing certain criteria as "exclusionary" without a scientific basis, is acting in an arbitrary and capricious manner. Since Public Law 23-95 was enacted, there has been no enactment by *I Liheslatura* granting any executive agency the authority to select landfill sites other than *Guatali* or *Mala'a*. The Consent Decree requires compliance with Guam law.

Finding 3: Guam EPA not authorized to select a final site. Under the provisions of Title 10 GCA §51119(a)(6), the Solid Waste Management Plan adopted by the Guam EPA includes "an identification of potential sites for future sanitary landfills" but does not grant authority to select a final site.

Finding 4: The site selection process excluded available Federal property. The site selection process entered into by Guam EPA did not identify potential sites for a landfill on Federal property without discussing with the Federal Government the possibility of utilizing Federal property for a future landfill or entering into a land exchange with the government of Guam. It is appropriate to discuss such options with the Federal Government due to the need for such facilities by the United States Air Force and the United States Navy, as the sanitary landfills being utilized by these branches of the United States Armed Forces are near capacity.

Finding 5: Guam EPA selection criteria was not applied consistently to the sites considered. The site selection process entered into by Guam EPA to identify potential sites for a landfill was flawed from the beginning when different criteria were used to rate potential sites; specifically:

(a) Potential landfill sites in northern Guam were summarily eliminated from consideration at the outset in order to assure protection of valuable fresh water resources. This same criteria was extended to valuable fresh water resources elsewhere in Guam, including the *Talofofo* watershed which feeds the *Ugum* River dam, but was not extended to the selection of the *Dandan/Layon* site, which had already been identified by Guam Waterworks for future water resource development; and

(b) Guam EPA crafted unnecessarily restrictive criteria to eliminate potential sites from consideration. The additional restrictions were not put in place by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to safeguard the people of Guam *or* to protect our island's valuable environmental resources, but rather to eliminate potential sites by setting an artificial property size limit not contained in Federal law or regulation, as a basis to remove the *Guatali or Mala'a* sites identified in Public Law 23-95 from consideration.

Finding 6: The site selection process entered into by Guam EPA did not follow the Consent Decree requirements because it included two (2) sites ineligible by application of Federal Policy. During the process of narrowing its selection to the three (3) final sites pursuant to the Consent Decree, two (2) sites, Sabanan Batea and Lonfit did not meet Federal criteria and should have been automatically excluded. Based on the Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration Advisory Circular No. 150/5200-34 and the Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, which forbid the construction or establishment of a new solid waste landfill within six (6) statute miles of public use airports, the Sabanan Batea and Lonfit sites, as well as the Ordot Dump, are well within that radius. An argument

could be made that by selecting two (2) sites that could not be considered, the *Dandan* site would have to be selected. Guam EPA did not select two (2) alternate sites to replace *Sabanan Batea* and *Lonfit* on the short list, leaving only *Dandan* for selection.

Finding 7: The updated 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan containing the *Dandan/Layon* site designation is not valid and was not adopted pursuant to the Guam Administrative Adjudication Act.

- (a) The updated 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan provides that the new Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Facility (MLSWF) will be at *Dandan/Layon*, and the agency's regulations were deemed approved because they had not been disapproved by the Legislature within ninety (90) days under the Administrative Adjudication Act (AAA), however, regulations cannot supercede law, thus the 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan is invalid. See AmJur 2d Administrative Law §223.
- (b) The AAA process requires an Economic Impact Statement (EIS) for any regulation promulgated under the AAA that will cost the general public in excess of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000). Title 5 GCA §9301. The 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan was submitted without an EIS, despite the presence of Sec 6.5.2 that specifically requires the development of the *Dandan/Layon* site, the cost of which is expected to be well over \$180 Million Dollars. An EIS was never prepared by Guam EPA because its administrator certified that the cost to the public to implement the 2006 Solid Waste Management Plan would be less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000). To date, government of Guam has already spent in excess of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) on the proposed *Dandan/Layon* site that has never been

approved by public law, and the Federal court has ordered government of Guam to spend at least \$1.3 Million Dollars to condemn a site that was selected absent any legal authority. The Consent Decree requires compliance with Guam law.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

Finding 8: The United States Environmental Protection Agency is complicit in the violation of Guam Law relative to the site selection process. The Consent Decree requires Guam law to be followed in the site selection process. By virtue of the United States Environmental Protection Agency approving the *Dandan/Layon* site without legislative approval, it has taken a position contrary to Guam Law and the requirements of the Consent Decree.

Finding 9: Local legislation guarantees accountability, transparency, and full-disclosure of landfill plans to I Liheslatura and the people of Guam. Assistant U.S. Attorney Mikel Schwab was quoted in Guam's media as saying: "Instead of seeking to expedite government of Guam's compliance, the Guam Legislature chose to place additional hurdles in DPW's path." This statement was challenged in a November 23, 2007 letter to Attorney Schwab from Senator Muña Barnes, who stated that the provisions in P.L. 29-19 require fiscal accountability for the expenditure of government funds. Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood wrote in her Order of December 14, 2007: "The court is deeply concerned that there is legislation enacted that seemingly prohibits the opening of the new landfill. It cannot be ignored that GovGuam has already contracted approximately \$9.3 Million Dollars in work under the Consent Decree." I Liheslatura is unaware of legislation in place that would prohibit opening a new landfill, however P.L. 29-19 does require that DPW must fully account for the funds they are expending. In her letter to Attorney Schwab, Senator Muña Barnes wrote:

"The contract for the construction plans for the *Layon/Dandan* landfill was initiated in 2005. In subsequent change orders to this contract, the scope of work was expanded to include an environmental impact study for the *Layon/Dandan* site, the construction of a temporary road, and a hydrogeologic study, among other items. All of this was initiated without clear title to the property and contrary to established government of Guam procurement processes, perhaps done in a panicked response to Consent Decree requirements.

With regard to the funding requirements for Layon/Dandan, DPW has not yet provided I Liheslatura with the amount necessary to finance the closure of the Ordot Dump and open a new landfill." I Liheslatura was expressing concern that "estimates of amounts as high as \$10 Million Dollars that have already been spent on work at the Layon/Dandan site without any of the following:

(a) Legislative appropriation, or

- (b) A statute identifying the site for the new landfill, or
- (c) Government of Guam possessing clear title to the property containing the *Layon/Dandan* site.

For that reason *I Liheslatura* included in Public Law 29-19 a requirement that government of Guam '...shall not expend funds on site-specific preparation, design work, mitigation, infrastructure upgrade or installation, or construction of a new landfill, unless the government of Guam has acquired and recorded fee simple ownership of the property in question.' This language can be found in item (b) of Section 98, Chapter VI. The intent of this provision of law is *solely* to require accountability by our government on millions of dollars of expenditures of government funds that are currently taking place on private

property, and most likely inflating its value, before government of Guam has made a realistic attempt to acquire said property. Further, items (c) and (d) of the same section specifically mandate the following:

- "'(c) Landfill Financing Plan. Within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Act, the Department of Public Works *shall* submit to *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* and *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* a financing plan enumerating in detail all costs associated with the construction of the new landfill, including but *not limited to*:
 - (a) Property acquisition,

- (b) Environmental mitigation within the landfill footprint, buffer zone, and other impacted areas including, but *not limited to* water sources, rivers, streams, tributaries, wetlands, surface water, ground water, drainage, and runoff erosion;
- (c) Infrastructure needs, including but *not limited to* power; water; wastewater, and roadways including climbing lanes for trucks; mitigation of blind-curves and other hazards; shoulder widening; roadway widening; addition of new traffic lanes; traffic management; drainage and storm drainage improvements; access and utility roads; upgrading road markings and signage, and upgrading bridges;
- (d) Landfill construction, and
- (e) Annual landfill operations and maintenance costs'."
- "'(d) The Director of Public Works, the Administrator of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, and any other head of an executive branch or agency that has expended funds on a new landfill *shall*, within thirty (30) days of passage of this Act, submit a report regarding the purpose, amount and source of that expenditure to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*."

"Strict time limits were placed on submittal of the financing plan and reporting on expenditures so as to delay the process at little as possible. Please note that while DPW has presented cost analyses for the closure of *Ordot* Dump and the opening of a new landfill at the *Layon/Dandan* site, these cost-estimates have fluctuated significantly. I recall that during the 27th Guam Legislature, these costs were pegged at \$80 Million Dollars. Now such estimates hover at around \$229 Million Dollars. We must be certain of this amount given the challenging economic conditions currently being experienced in Guam."

Finding 10. The *Dandan/Layon* site poses a detrimental impact to the population of Guam. Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood wrote in her Order of December 14, 2007: "According to Messrs. Tor Gudmudsen, a professional civil engineer, and Pankaj Arora, an environmental engineer for the USEPA Region IX, the *Dandan* site will pose no risk to the nearby water sources and no risk of leachate as the new landfill will have a minimum of a five-foot liner. See Docket No. 170. Additionally, a site visit to *Dandan* conducted by the court revealed the existence of monitoring wells designed to further prevent the risk of contamination. There is nothing in the court's record to indicate that the selection of *Dandan* – the landfill site selected by government of Guam – will have a detrimental impact to the population of Guam..."

A U.S. Geological Survey Fact Sheet, No. FS-040-03 entitled "The Norman Landfill Environmental Research Site: What Happens to the Waste in Landfills?" has a very different perspective. The Fact Sheet states: "Although liners and leachate collection systems minimize leakage, liners can fail and leachate collection systems may not collect all the leachate that escapes from a landfill. Leachate collection systems require maintenance of pipes, and pipes can fail because they crack, collapse, or fill with sediment. The USEPA has

concluded that all landfills eventually will leak into the environment..." This is a widely known and accepted fact, and it is the reason that USEPA requires sensors and monitoring leak detection devices for all landfills.

Finding 11: The *Dandan/Layon* site is located on a future water source. In her November 23, 2007 letter to U.S. Attorney Mikel Schwab, Senator Muña Barnes quoted the following from a letter dated June 14, 2005, from environmental engineers and consultants Brown & Caldwell (B&C) to then-General Manager David Craddick of Guam Waterworks, in which B&C Chief Hydrogeologist Martin G. Steinpress makes the following points:

- (a) "Although GWA's *Fena* surface water reservoir and *Ugum* diversion currently supply southern Guam, future needs may require groundwater development. Since groundwater beneath *Layon* falls within the G-1 Resource Zone category, it must be protected to drinking water quality standards."
- (b) "The SEIS acknowledges that the *Inarajan* River has been identified as a potential site for a surface water dam and/or reservoir. SEIS Figure 3-1 also shows proposed reservoir and/or diversion sites on the *Tinago* River ... both of these proposed sites would be downstream of the proposed landfill site."
- (c) "In spite of the SEIS claim that "no plans are currently in place to develop groundwater or surface water supplies in the *Layon* Area ... GWA considers (the *Inarajan* and *Tinago* Rivers) as potentially viable and necessary for the future water supply needs. In fact, the pre-draft Guam Water Budget Report ... recommends that consideration be given to investigating the feasibility of diversions at other rivers in addition to the *Ugum*..."

(d) "No citations or evidence is provided that the limestone aquifer tapped by the *Malojloj* wells is either limited in extent *or* that groundwater within it is not continuous with that in the volcanic formations in the *Layon* area."

(e) "...previous well yields do not rule out development of an economic groundwater resource in either the limestone or volcanic aquifers of Southern Guam ... well yields comparable to northern Guam are possible."

Finding 12: GEPA selection criteria relative to water sources was not consistently applied to the *Dandan/Layon* site. Senator Guthertz has opined on several occasions on the seeming lack of common sense in the actions and decisions regarding closing the *Ordot* Dump and opening a landfill. In her column in the Marianas Variety of June 14, 2007, and with the knowledge that all landfills will eventually leak into the environment, Senator Guthertz pointed out that during the process to select sites for the proposed landfill, "... areas near water resources were excluded, including locations near *Ugum* River and northern Guam... the 'experts' excluded Guam's water resources to protect them from poisoning because landfill liners ALWAYS leak. Although the *Inarajan* watershed can produce seven million gallons of water every day, it was not eliminated (from the list of possible landfill sites), suggesting that something was wrong with the (site selection) process.

Finding 13: The Consent Decree allows for the construction of a private sanitary landfill. On December 11, 2007, U.S. Attorney Leonardo M. Rapadas was quoted in Guam's media as saying that the *Dandan/Layon* site was only one allowable under the Federal Consent Decree for a new landfill. This statement was challenged in a December 12, 2007 letter to U.S. Attorney

Rapadas from Senator Respicio, who pointed out that "Dandan may be the only approved site for a Government landfill, but the Consent Decree does not prohibit the use of a private landfill."

"The Consent Decree states that the *Ordot* Dump is to be closed and no longer allowed to receive solid waste as soon as a properly permitted landfill is opened in Guam."

Specifically, the Consent Decree, United States of America v. Government of Guam, *Civil Case No. 02-00022*, IV. COMPLIANCE, item 10 b. states:

"Notwithstanding any of the time frame set forth in Paragraph 8 or 9 above, upon the opening of a properly licensed and permitted municipal solid waste landfill prior to the times set forth in Paragraphs 8 and 9 above, no further dumping of any kind will be permitted at the *Ordot* Dump."

The private firm seeking to open the landfill at *Guatali* pursuant to P.L. 23-95 has stated that the first cell can be opened by as early as the end of July, 2008, should they receive their proper permitting in a timely manner.

"The positions taken by both the U.S. Attorney's office and USEPA seem to be concerned only with using the *Dandan* property for a landfill, and not with moving forward in the most rapid and cost effective manner possible to close *Ordot*. It is my understanding that closing *Ordot* as quickly as possible because of the contamination of the *Lonfit* River is the reason for the Consent Decree."

"I am also surprised and concerned that the U.S. Attorney would take this anti-private enterprise position, especially when your office must surely recognize the need for a twenty-five percent (25%) increase in fresh water generation for the Federal Government's military buildup. Please help me

understand why Federal entities would want to insist on *Dandan* when the *Guatali* site would be:

(a) more cost effective;

- (b) allow the protection of water resources at *Dandan* needed for the military buildup; and
- (c) result in a much quicker closure of the *Ordot* Dump and resolution of the Consent Decree."

Finding 14: The Federal Government has not participated in efforts to reduce the volume of solid waste generated on Guam, thereby hindering government efforts. In her November 23, 2007 letter to U.S. Attorney Mikel Schwab, Senator Muña Barnes also took to task the lack of action by the Federal Government, in the form of the U.S. military commands in Guam, by refusing for many years to join with the civilian community in a container-recycling (bottle bill) program. She wrote:

"In ten (10) states, including Hawaii and California, the military is a full participant and those deposit programs prevent up to eighty percent (80%) or more of recyclable containers from entering waste streams. It seems rather disingenuous of the Federal government to criticize government of Guam for its solid waste problems, when the military's lack of cooperation prevents an important recycling effort from going forward. The Guam Chamber of Commerce has estimated that as much as forty percent (40%) of all beverages purchased in commissaries and exchanges are used and discarded off-base. Local beverage distributors oppose any kind of "bottle bill" until and unless the military is a full participant."and

WHEREAS, all of the documents to which this Resolution refers, with the exception of references to existing public laws and government codes, are attached to this Resolution as exhibits; and

WHEREAS, I Mina'bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan presents this resolution as an official statement of its sense that the location of Guam's new landfill has already been determined by Public Law 23-95 and that the selection of Dandan/Layon area for a landfill is contrary to existing Guam law, is in violation of the Federal Consent Decree, and also ignores the necessity of developing the water resources within the Inarajan Watershed for the future needs of the people of Guam; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the Legislative Counsel file a motion to permit this Resolution and the attached information contained herein to be included in the court record of Civil Case No. 02-00022 before the District Court of Guam, relative to the Consent Decree to close the *Ordot* Dump and open a new sanitary landfill in Guam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on behalf of the people of Guam, considers this Resolution to be an expression of public policy, and requests that the Governor of Guam and all members of his administration, and the Attorney General of Guam, cease in referencing the site in *Dandan/Layon* as the only site for Guam's sanitary landfill; and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully and officially conveys to U.S. District Court Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood that the opening of landfill at *Guatali or Mala'a* is one of a few alternative solutions to Guam's solid waste crisis that will result in a more timely closing of the *Ordot* Dump and bring an end to the Consent Decree at a much

- lower cost to the people of Guam and provide protection to our island's precious water 1
- 2 resources; and be it further
- 3 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 4
- 5 U.S. District Court Chief Judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood; to the U.S. Attorney
- Leonardo M. Rapadas; to the Honorable Alicia G. Limtiaco, Attorney General of 6
- 7 Guam; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Maga'lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2007.

Acting Speaker

RÁY TENORIO Senator and

Secretary of the Legislature