## TWELFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1973 (FIRST) Regular Session

Guam Territorial Law Library 141 San Ramon Rd; Agana, Guam 96910

## CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO THE GOVERNOR

This is to certify that Bill No. 30, "An Act to add a new Chapter XII-A to Title XIV of the Government Code of Guam relative to protecting and confirming public rights to land on Guam, and authorizing an appropriation to carry out the purpose thereof", which was heretofore passed and thereafter on November 12, 1973, returned to the Legislature without the approval of the Governor was, in accordance with the Organic Act of Guam, reconsidered by the Legislature and after such reconsideration the Legislature did on the 27th day of November, 1973, agree to pass said bill notwithstanding the objections of the Governor by a vote of more than two-thirds of all the members thereof, to wit: by a vote of 15 members.

> T. RAMIREZ Speaker

ATTESTED:

BAMBA

Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by the Governor this day of December, 1973, at 3:00 o'clock

Public Law
12-61

Attorney General of Guam

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## TWELFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 1973 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 30 Substitute Bill

Introduced by

P. J. Bordallo

AN ACT TO ADD A NEW CHAPTER XII-A TO TITLE XIV OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE OF GUAM RELATIVE TO PROTECTING AND CONFIRMING PUBLIC RIGHTS TO LAND ON GUAM, AND AUTHORIZING AN APPROPRIATION TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE THEREOF.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY OF GUAM:

Section 1. Chapter XII-A to Title XIV is hereby added to the Government Code of Guam to read as follows:

## "CHAPTER XII-A

Confirmation of Public Rights

Section 13980. Legislative findings. The Legislature finds that the traditional pattern of land ownership on Guam was that many areas of the island were completely open to public access and public's use of such land was totally unfettered. Examples of such areas are the dry sand area of Guam's beaches and the steep slopes of Guam's mountains, both areas having been referred to as Monte Sine Dueno. Additionally, there are many areas of Guam over which the public, through frequent and uninterrupted use, has acquired rights which need to be confirmed, settled, and vested by means of asserting these rights in land registration cases.

Section 13981. Researching and identifying public rights: duty of Land Records Division of the Department. The Land Records Division of the Department is hereby directed to conduct an exhaustive study of the patterns of land ownership and of public land use on Guam in order to identify those areas where the public may be able to

establish a legally sufficient claim for ownership or use thereof in a land registration proceeding instituted by either the government of Guam on behalf of the public's right thereto or by a private citizen in derogation of the public's right thereof. The Division shall also conduct research and prepare reports with respect to such land as the Attorney General may request to assist the government's presentation in land registration cases in which the public's interest in land is being asserted.

Section 13982. Confirming public rights: duty of Attorney General. The Director shall report the findings of the Land Records Division to the Attorney General and it shall be the duty of the Attorney General to enter an appearance in or file on behalf of the public in land registration proceedings for any unregistered land over which the public has a claim as revealed by research and study of the Department."

Section 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to carry out the intent and purpose of this Act.

Section 3 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Land Transfer Board, the Governor of Guam and the Director of the Department of Land Management shall not sell, lease or exchange government-owned property without the prior approval of the Legislature. If the Legislature fails to act within twenty (20) Legislative days following receipt of such proposed sale, lease or exchange, it shall be deemed to have concurred. This section shall not apply to Land Use Permits issued pursuant to Chapter VII of the Government Code of Guam.

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