

MAY 2 2 2000

The Honorable Joanne M. S. Brown
Legislative Secretary
I Mina'Bente Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Twenty-Fifth Guarn Legislature
Suite 200
130 Aspinal Street
Hagåtña, Guarn 96910

OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

ACKNOWLEDGMENT RECEIPT

Received By Togai

Time /0:/0am

Date May 23, 2000

Dear Legislative Secretary Brown:

Enclosed please find Substitute Bill No. 379 COR), "AN ACT ADD §§43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43, DIVISION 3 OF TITLE 7 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE", which I have signed into law today as Public Law No. 25-132.

This legislation provides for a mediation program within the Superior Court of Guam. There are currently laws on the books providing for an Alternate Dispute Resolution Office, however, this legislation is more specific. This legislation also states that other types of dispute resolution may be used, as well as the type provided for in this program.

Any civil case, including domestic and custody cases, when the parties agree, can be referred to the Superior Court's mediation program. Mediators must be impartial, facilitate communication between the parties, deal with all parties including insurance companies, and must advocate settlement. The legislation specifies that mediators are not judges and have no authority to render decisions or force settlements. A mediator is prohibited from having a financial or personal interest in the matter at hand. Mediation is private, communications of the parties are privileged, no recordings of the sessions are to be made unless agreed to, no subpochas or summons or these types of process can be served on a person attending a mediation session.

These procedures are to encourage parties to settle disputes without the time, expense, and personal toll that litigation requires. Decisions made during the mediation would be affirmed by decision of the court.

Very truly yours,

Carl T. C. Gutierrez
I Maga'Lahen Guahan
Governor of Guam

Attachment:

copy attached for signed bill or overridden bill original attached for vetoed bill

CC:

The Honorable Antonio R. Unpingco

Speaker

00942

MINA'BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2000 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 379 (COR) "AN ACT TO ADD §§43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43, DIVISION 3 OF TITLE 7 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE," was on the 11th day of May 2000, duly and regularly passed.

	ANTONIO R HINDINGGO	
Attested: JOANNE M.S. BROWN Senator and Legislative Secretary	ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO Speaker	
This Act was received by I Maga'lahen Guat o'clockM.	- Tuvin lel	, 2000,
	Assistant Staff Officer	
APPROVED:	Maga'lahi's Office	
CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ I Maga'lahen Guahan		
Date: <u>5.22.</u>		
Public Law No. <u>25-132</u>		

MINA'BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2000 (Second) Regular Session

Bill No. 379 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection and Human Resources Development.

Introduced by:

K. S. Moylan

A. C. Lamorena, V

F. B. Aguon, Jr.

E. C. Bermudes

A. C. Blaz

J. M.S. Brown

E. B. Calvo

M. G. Camacho

Mark Forbes

L. F. Kasperbauer

C. A. Leon Guerrero

V. C. Pangelinan

S. A. Sanchez, II

A. R. Unpingco

I. C. Salas

AN ACT TO ADD §§43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43, DIVISION 3 OF TITLE 7 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

1 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. Guam law relating to 1 alternative dispute resolution has been enacted piecemeal over the past three 2 (3) decades. The Civil Arbitration Law was enacted in March, 1970 by Public 3 Law Number 10-119 and codified in Chapter 42 of Title 7 of the Guam Code 4 Annotated as part of the Civil Procedure Code. Additional provisions were 5 enacted by Public Law Number 12-85. Chapter 43 was enacted by Public Law 6 Number 19-05 whereby the "Alternate Dispute Resolution Office" within the 7 Judicial Branch was created. That office is mandated to "provide training and 8 services for mediation, conciliation, arbitration and other means of settling conflicts 9 or disputes among residents of Guam." Additional statutes relating to mediation 10 were enacted by Public Law Numbers 22-98 and 24-49. Existing Guam law is 11 12 principally procedural, providing little guidance with respect to what 13 mediation is, how it is meant to work, or what the role of a mediator should 14 be.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that passage of a comprehensive mediation law on the eve of the new millennium is both fitting and timely. A new statutory framework for mediation will provide a contemporary legal base for greater use of that type of out-of-court conflict resolution during a period that is expected to involve increased commercial activity and business growth on Guam. And, during the present time of economic stress in both the public and private sectors, the avoidance, when feasible, of costly litigation in an overburdened Court system, is to be encouraged.

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Section 2. Sections 43103 – 43108 are hereby *added* to Chapter 43, Division 3 of Title 7 of the Guam Code Annotated to read as follows.

"Section 43103. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the 'Guam Millennium Mediation Act.'

Section 43104. Referral of Case for Mediation. The Superior Court, by agreement of the parties, may refer any civil case, including any domestic relations or custody case, or any portion thereof for mediation.

A referral to mediation may be made at any time while a civil case is pending. The order of referral to mediation shall be entered on a standard form consistent with the form set forth in §43108 of this Chapter.

Section 43105. Court-ordered Mediation Provisions. The following provisions shall apply to any mediation ordered by the Court pursuant to §43104 of this Chapter:

- (a) Mediation shall be a process in which impartial persons, the mediators, facilitate communication between disputing parties to promote understanding, reconciliation and settlement. Participants shall include the mediators; the parties; and insurance companies or their representatives. The mediators may meet with participants together or individually.
- (b) A mediator shall be an advocate for settlement and use the mediation process to help the parties fully explore any potential areas of agreement. A mediator shall *not* serve as a judge and shall *not* have authority to render any decisions on any disputed issues, or to force a settlement between the parties.

(c) The parties shall be responsible for negotiating any resolution to a dispute. Parties shall participate in mediation in good faith, and put forth their best efforts with the intention to settle all issues, *if* possible. *If* the parties are unable to settle all issues, they shall attempt to settle as many issues as possible.

- (d) No person with any financial or personal interest in the result of mediation shall serve as a mediator. Before agreeing to mediate a dispute, the mediators shall disclose any circumstances likely to create a presumption of bias or prevent a prompt meeting with the parties.
- (e) Mediation sessions shall be private. Persons other than the parties, and their representatives, may attend *only* with the consent of the parties, and the mediators.
- (f) Except as otherwise provided by §505 of Title 6 of the Guam Code Annotated for privileged communications, any communication relating to the subject matter of the dispute made during the mediation process by a participant, or any other person present at the mediation, shall be a confidential communication. No admission, representation, statement, or other confidential communication made in setting up or in conducting the mediation shall be admissible as evidence or subject to discovery, except that, no fact independently discoverable shall be non-discoverable solely by virtue of having been disclosed in such confidential communication. There shall be no stenographic or electronic record, including audio or video, of the mediation process, unless

1	it is agreed upon by the parties and the mediators, and it is not
2	otherwise prohibited by law. No participant in the mediation
3	proceeding, including the mediators, shall be subpoenaed or
4	otherwise compelled to disclose any matter disclosed in the
5	process of setting up or conducting the mediation proceeding.
6	(g) No subpoena, summons, complaint, petition, citation
7	or other process of any kind may be served upon any person who
8	is at or near the site of any mediation session and is there because
9	of the mediation.
10	Section 43106. List of Qualified Mediators. Each Superior
11	Court of Guam Judge shall maintain a list of qualified mediators. In
12	order to be placed on any such list, a person shall successfully complete
13	any training prescribed by the Judicial Council.
14	Section 43107. Mediation Provisions Not Exclusive. Nothing
15	in this Act shall preclude the parties from agreeing:
16	(a) to participate in any alternative dispute resolution
17	process, including mediation, independent of this Act or any
18	related Court order; or
19	(b) to select a mediator not identified on any list of
20	qualified mediators maintained by the Superior Court of Guam.
21	Section 43108 Form for Mediation Order. The form for
22	ordering mediation shall be substantially as follows:
23	'IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM.

Order of Referral to Mediation.

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This case is ordered to mediation pursuant to the Guam Millennium Mediation Act. Parties and legal counsel shall proceed in good faith to encourage the mediation process. The parties shall contact the mediators selected by the Court within five (5) business days to make arrangements for the mediation proceeding. Mediation shall be completed within __days from the date of this order. Mediation shall be attended by persons with full settlement authority. Both parties shall participate in mediation, attorneys may participate as agreed by the parties and the mediators. Named parties shall be present, except for a named party who has no interest in the outcome and no settlement authority. Each party who is represented by legal counsel may be accompanied at mediation by an attorney who is fully familiar with the case. In addition, any insurance company or other entity that is contractually required to defend or to pay damages, shall be represented by a person with full settlement authority."

Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon enactment.





MINA' BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

TWENTY-FIFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 155 Hesler Street, Hagatña, Guam 96910

May 16, 2000

The Honorable Carl T.C. Gutierrez I Maga'lahen Guåhan Ufisinan I Maga'lahi Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RECEIVED TO MAY 16 2000 GOVERNOR'S MAY 6 COFFICE OFFICE OF

Dear Maga'lahi Gutierrez:

Transmitted herewith are Substitute Bill Nos. 410(COR) and 379(COR) and Bill Nos. 283(COR), 367(COR) and 405(COR) which were passed by I Mina'Bente Singko Na Liheslaturan Guåhan on May 11, 2000.

Sincerely,

OANNE M.S. BROWN

Senator and Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (5)

MINA'BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2000 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 379 (COR) "AN ACT TO ADD §§43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43, DIVISION 3 OF TITLE 7 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE," was on the 11th day of May 2000, duly and regularly passed.

ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO **S**peaker Attested OANNE M.S. BROWN Senator and Legislative Secretary ------This Act was received by I Maga'lahen Guahan this 164 day of Magate at 2:45 o'clock P.M.

Murin Herle Assistant Staff Officer Maga'lahi's Office APPROVED: CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ I Maga'lahen Guahan Date: _____ Public Law No.

MINA'BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2000 (Second) Regular Session

Bill No. 379 (COR)

As substituted by the Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection and Human Resources Development.

Introduced by:

I. C. Salas

K. S. Moylan

A. C. Lamorena, V

F. B. Aguon, Jr.

E. C. Bermudes

A. C. Blaz

J. M.S. Brown

E. B. Calvo

M. G. Camacho

Mark Forbes

L. F. Kasperbauer

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S. A. Sanchez, II

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Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon enactment.

CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

TRANSMISSION CHECKLIST TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN (Included in File w/ All Bills Transmitted)

BILL NO. 37969)

FINAL PROOF-READING OF BLUEBACK COPY

	Initialed by:	and Date:
	EXHIBITS ATTACHED	•
	CONFIRM NUMBER OF	PAGES (
	CAPTION ON CERTIFIC	CATION MATCHES BILL CAPTION
	ENGROSSED SIGN"*"	REMOVED FROM BILL
	15 SENATORS IN SPON	SORSHIP OR CONFIRM OTHERWISE
	CERTIFICATION SIGNE	ED BY SPEAKER & LEGIS. SECRETARY
	EMERGENCY DECLAR	ATION, if any 100
Confi	irmed By:	Dated:
	· 1 0	
	HAND CARRY BILL IN	BLUEBACK (ORIGINAL & COPY)
	TO THE GOVERNOR.	DANNY, ROBERT OR OTHERS)
	ACKNOWLEGED COPY	Y W/ ORIGINAL BLUEBACK
	PLACED ON CLERK'S I	DESK. (Same copy given to Susan)
	FILED by: Danny, Robe	rt or others

MINA'BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2000 (SECOND) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO I MAGA'LAHEN GUAHAN

This is to certify that Substitute Bill No. 379 (COR) "AN ACT TO ADD §§43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43, DIVISION 3 OF TITLE 7 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE," was on the 11th day of May 2000, duly and regularly passed.

Attested:	ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO Speaker
JOANNE M.S. BROWN Senator and Legislative Secretary	
	this, 2000,
ato'clockM.	
APPROVED:	Assistant Staff Officer Maga'lahi's Office CEIVED 12 1 6 2000
CARL T. C. GUTIERREZ I Maga'lahen Guahan	19:50 am
Date:	Office of the Speaker ANTONIO R. UNPINGCO Date:
Public Law No	Time: /lobs Rec'd by:

I MINA' BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN

2000 (SECOND) Regular Session

Date:_	5/11/00	6
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VOTING SHEET

5 Bill No. <u>37</u>	9 (COR)			
Resolution No				
Question:		 		

NAME	YEAS	<u>NAYS</u>	NOT VOTING <u>/</u> ABSTAINED	OUT DURING ROLL CALL	ABSENT
AGUON, Frank B., Jr.	~				
BERMUDES, Eulogio C. / 1	V				
BLAZ, Anthony C. /	V				
BROWN , Joanne M.S.	V				
CALVO, Eduardo B.	V				
CAMACHO, Marcel G.	V				
FORBES, Mark	V				
KASPERBAUER, Lawrence F.					
LAMORENA, Alberto C., V					
LEON GUERRERO, Carlotta A.	V				
MOYLAN, Kaleo Scott	V				
PANGELINAN, Vicente C.	V				
SALAS, John C.	V				
SANCHEZ, Simon A., II					EA
UNPINGCO, Antonio R.	V				

TOTAL	14	0	 0	1E
CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:				
Clerk of the Legislature			★ 3 Passes = No EA = Excused A	





MINA' BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN TWENTY-FIFTH GUAM LEGISLATURE

155 Hesler Street, Hagatña, Guam 96910

May	5.	2000	 	
		DATE)		

Memorano	lum
To:	Senator John C. Salas
From:	Clerk of the Legislature
Subject:	Report on Bill No. 379
herewith i	o §7.04 of Rule VII of the 25 th Standing Rules, transmitted s a copy of the Committee Report on Bill No, you are the prime sponsor.
-	u have any questions or need further information, please dersigned at 472-3464/5.
Attachmer	Josephine Brennan-Badley



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, PUBLIC SAFETY, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

I Mina'Bente Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

JOHN CAMACHO SALAS, CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2000

Honorable Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco, Speaker Mina' Bente Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan 155 Hessler Street Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection and Human Resources Development t which was referred Bill No. 379 has had the same under consideration and now wishes to report back the same with recommendation **TO DO PASS.**

The Committee votes are as follows:

To Do Pass	<u>4</u>
No To Pass	0
Abstain	0
Other	- 6
Ome	**************************************

A copy of the Committee's report and other pertinent documents are attached for your reference and information.

Sincerely,

C. Sela

John C. Salas



SENATOR JOHN CAMACHO SALAS **CHAIRMAN**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, PUBLIC SAFETY, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND **HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

VOTING SHEET

BILL NUMBER 379

TITLE AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING AN **EFFECTIVE DATE**

	TO DO PASS	NOT TO PASS	ABSTAIN	INACTIV FILE
John Camacho Salas, Chairman				
Kaleo S. Moyllan, Vice-Chairman				
Frank B. Aguon, Jr., Member				
Joanne M.S. Brown , Member				
Mark Forbes, Member				
Alberto C. Lamorena V, Member			,	
Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, Member				
Antonio R. Unpingco, Ex-Officio				

Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection, and Human Resources Development Committee Report on Bill 379 Publicly Heard April 24, 2000

Bill 379: An act to add new sections 43103 to 43108 to chapter 43 of title 7 Guam Code Annotated, relative to alternative dispute resolution; enacting new provisions relating to mediation; and providing an effective date.

I. **ATTENDANCE**

- Senator John C. Salas, Chairman
 Senator Carlotta A. Leon Guerrero, member
- Senator Alberto C. Lamorena, member
- Senator Frank B. Aguon Jr., member
- Senator Vicente C. Pangelinan

П. **MAIN SPONSORS**

Senator John C. Salas

Ш. **TESTIMONY**

Patrick Wolff, Attorney and Founder of Ina'Fa Maolek, stated that the bill has good intentions and a few changes would needed to be made.

Chairman Salas, stated that the committee would look over the bill and make the changes.

Senator Leon Guerrero, asked Attorney Wolff if the mediation process was to be used to settle employee grievances. Would it be stepping on the Civil Service Hearings.

Attorney Wolff, stated that the Bill is not written to step on the Civil Service Commissions duty. He stated that the mediation process could be used before going to the Civil Service Commission for a ruling.

V. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends TO DO PASS Bill 379 as substituted.

MINA BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2000 (Second) Regular Session

Bill No. 379

As substituted by the Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection & Human Resources Development

minounced by.	Introduced	bv:
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J.C. Salas K.S.Moylan A.C. Lamorena

AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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 - (b) A mediator shall be an advocate for settlement and use the mediation process to help the parties fully explore any potential areas of agreement. A mediator shall not serve as a judge and shall not have authority to render any decisions on any disputed issues or to force a settlement between the parties.
 - (c) The parties shall be responsible for negotiating any resolution to a dispute. Parties shall participate in mediation in good faith, and put forth their best efforts with the intention to settle all issues, if possible. If the parties are unable to settle all issues, they shall attempt to settle as many issues as possible.

(d) No person with any financial or personal interest in the result of mediation shall serve as a mediator. Before agreeing to mediate a dispute, the mediators shall disclose any circumstances likely to create a resumption of bias or prevent a prompt meeting with the parties.

- (e) Mediation sessions shall be private. Persons other than the parties and interested non-parties their representatives may attend only with the consent of the parties, interested non-parties, and the mediators.
- (f) Except as otherwise provided by 6 GCA §505 for privileged communications, any communication relating to the subject matter of the dispute made during the mediation process by a participant or any other person present at the mediation shall be a confidential communication. No admission, representation, statement, or other confidential communication made in setting up or in conducting the mediation shall be admissible as evidence or subject to discovery, except that, no fact independently discoverable shall be nondiscoverable solely by virtue of having been disclosed in such confidential communication. There shall be no stenographic or electronic record, including audio or video, of the mediation process, unless it is agreed upon by the parties, interested non parties, and the mediators, and it is not otherwise prohibited by law. No participant in the mediation proceeding, including the mediators, shall be subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to disclose any matter disclosed in the process of setting up or conducting the mediation proceeding.
- (g) No subpoena, summons, complaint, petition, citation, or other process of any kind may be served upon any person who is at or near the site of any mediation session and is there because of the mediation.
- **§43106. List of Qualified Mediators**. Each Superior Court Judge shall maintain a list of qualified mediators. In order to be placed on any such list, a person shall sucessfully complete any training prescribed by the Judicial Council.
- §43107. Mediation Provisions Not Exclusive. Nothing in this Act shall preclude the parties from agreeing:
- (a) To participate in any alternative dispute resolution process, including mediation, independent of this Act or any related court order; or

(b) To select a mediator not identified on any list of qualified mediators maintained by the Superior Court.

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§43108. Form for Mediation Order. The form for ordering mediation shall be substantially as follows:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF GUAM

Order of Referral to Mediation

This case is ordered to mediation pursuant to the Guam Millennium Mediation Act. Parties and legal counsel shall proceed in good faith to resolve this case encourage the mediation process. The parties shall contact the mediators selected by the court within five (5) business days to make arrangements for the mediation proceeding. Mediation shall be completed within ____ days from the date of this order. Mediation shall be attended by persons with full settlement authority. Both parties shall participate in mediation; attorneys may participate as agreed by the parties and the mediators. Named parties shall be present, except for a named party who has no interest in the outcome and no settlement authority. Each party who is represented by legal counsel may be accompanied at mediation by an attorney who is fully familiar with the case. In addition, any interested non-party insurance company or other entity that is contractually required to defend or to pay damages, shall be represented by a person with full settlement authority."

Section 3. This Act shall become effective on enactment.

Ro - For Schille



MINA' BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

Kumitean Areklamento, Refotman Gubetnamento Siha, Inetnon di Nuebu, yan Asunton Fidirat

Senator Mark Forbes, Chairman Kabisiyon Mayuråt

12 JAN 200

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Chairman

Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection

and Human Resources Development

FROM:

Chairman

Committee on Rules, Government Reform, Reorganization

and Federal Affairs

SUBJECT:

Principal Referral – Bill No. 379

The above bill is referred to your Committee as the Principal Committee. In accordance with Section 6.04.05. of the Standing Rules, your Committee "shall be the Committee to perform the public hearing and have the authority to amend or substitute the bill, as well as report the bill out to the Body." It is recommended that you schedule a public hearing at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

MARK FORBES

Attachment

JAN 1 0 2000

JAN 10 2000

MINA BENTE SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 1999 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 379 (COR)

Introduced by:

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J.C. Salas School K.S.Moylang A.C. Lamorena

AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Legislative Findings and Intent. Guam law relating to 2 alternative dispute resolution has been enacted piecemeal over the past 3 three decades. The Civil Arbitration Law was enacted in March 1970 by Public Law 10-119 and codified in 7 GCA Chapter 42 as part of the Civil 5 Procedure Code. Additional provisions were enacted by Public Law 12-85. 6 Chapter 43 was enacted by Public Law 19-05 whereby the "Alternate 7 Dispute Resolution Office" within the Judicial Branch was created. That 8 office is mandated to "provide training and services for mediation, 9 conciliation, arbitration and other means of settling conflicts or disputes 10 among resident of Guam." Additional statutes relating to mediation were 11 enacted by Public Laws 22-98 and 24-49. Existing Guam law is principally 12 procedural, providing little guidance with respect to what mediation is, 13 how it is meant to work, or what the role of a mediator should be. 14

I Liheslaturan Guahan finds that passage of a comprehensive mediation law on the eve of the New Millennium is both fitting and timely. A new statutory framework for mediation will provide a contemporary legal base for greater use of that type of out-of-court conflict resolution during a period that is expected to involve increased commercial activity and business growth in Guam. And, during the present time of economic stress

- in both the public and private sectors, the avoidance, when feasible, of
- 2 costly litigation in an overburdened court system, is to be encouraged.
- 3 **Section 2.** The following sections are added to 7 GCA Chapter 43.
- 4 "§43103. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the 'Guam Millennium
- 5 Mediation Act'. § 43104. Referral of Case for Mediation. The Superior
- 6 Court, by agreement of the parties, may refer any civil case, including any
- 7 domestic relations or custody case, or any portion thereof for mediation.
- 8 A referral to mediation may be made at any time while a civil case is
- 9 pending. The order of referral to madiation shall be entered on a standard
- form consitent with the form set forth in §43108 of this Chapter.
- §43105. The following provisions shall apply to any mediation ordered by
- the court pursuant to §43104 of this Chapter:
- (a) Mediation shall be a process in which impartial persons, the mediators,
- 14 facilitate communication between disputing parties to promote
- understanding, reconciliation, and settleement. Participants shall include
- the mediators, the parties, interested non-parties such as insurance
- companies or their representatives, and all others present. The mediators
- may meet with participants together or individually.
- 19 (b) A mediator shall be an advocate for settlement and use the mediation
- 20 process to help the parties fully explore any potential areas of agreement.
- A mediator shall not serve as a judge and shall not have authority to
- 22 render any decisions on any disputed issues or to force a settlement
- 23 between the parties.
- 24 (c) The parties shall be responsible for negotiating any resolution to a
- dispute. Parties shall participate in mediation in good faith, and put forth
- their best efforts with the intention to settle all issues, if possible. If the
- parties are unable to settle all issues, they shall attempt to settle as many
- 28 issues as possible.
- 29 (d) No person with any financial or personal interest in the result of
- mediation shall serve as a mediator. Before agreeing to mediate a dispute,
- the mediators shall disclose any circumstances likely to create a
- resumption of bias or prevent a prompt meeting with the parties.
- 33 (e) Mediation sessions shall be private. Persons other than the parties and
- interested non-parties and their representatives may attend only with the
- consent of the parties, interested non-parties, and the mediators.

- (f) Except as otherwise provided by 6 GCA §505 for privileged 1 communications, any communication relating to the subject matter of the 2 dispute made during the mediation process by a participant or any other 3 person present at the mediation shall be a confidential communication. No 4 other admission, representation, confidential statement, or 5 communication made in setting up or in conducting the mediation shall be 6 admissible as evidence or subject to discovery, except that, no fact 7 independently discoverable shall be nondiscoveerable solely by virtue of 8 having been disclosed in such confidential communication. There shall be 9 no stenographic or electronic record, including audio or video, of the 10 mediation process, unless it is agreed upon by the parties, interested non-11 parties, and the mediators, and it is not otherwise prohibited by law. No 12 participant in the mediation proceeding, including the mediators, shall be 13 subpoenaed or otherwise compelled to disclose any matter disclosed in the 14 process of setting up or conducting the mediation proceeding. 15
- 16 (g) No subpoena, summons, complaint, petition, citation, or other process 17 of any kind may be served upon any person who is at or near the site of any 18 mediation session and is there because of the mediation.
- §43106. List of Qualified Mediators. Each Superior Court Judge shall maintain a list of qualified mediators. In order to be placed on any such list, a person shall sucessfully complete any training prescribed by the Judicial Council.

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- §43107. Mediation Provisions Not Exclusive. Nothing in this Act shall preclude the parties from agreeing:
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This case is ordered to mediation pursuant to the Guam Millennium Mediation Act. Parties and legal counsel shall proceed in good faith to resolve this case. The parties shall contact the mediators selected by the court within five (5) business days to make arrangements for the mediation

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- Section 3. This Act shall become effective on January 1, 2000.



Senator John Camacho Salas **CHAIRMAN**

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, PUBLIC SAFETY, CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

ESTIMONY SIGN IN SHEET

Thursday, January 20, 2000

Bill Number 379

Title

031297WTG

AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION: AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

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COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, PUBLIC SAFETY, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

I Mina'Bente Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan

JOHN CAMACHO SALAS, CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA Legislature's Public Hearing Room Monday, April 24, 2000 9:00 am

CONFIRMATION:

Ms. Sheila S. Torres, to serve as the Director of Agency for Human Resources Development.

Mr. David M. Dell'Isola, to serve as the Director of Department of Labor.

BILLS:

Bill 379: An act to add new section 43103 to 43108 to Chapter 43 of Title 7 Guam Code Annotated, relative to alternative dispute resolution; enacting new provisions relating to mediation; and providing an effective date.

Bill 365: An act to amend 5 GCA §s6208(b) and to add a new 5 GCA §6208.1, relative to maximizing the efficiency of review of Government claims by reducing the time in which the government must investigate and respond to claims for damages to motor vehicles filed against it, and to require notification to claimants of the basis for denial of any claims.

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Senator John Camacho Salas

Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary, Public Safety, Consumer Protection & Human Resources Development

Notice of Public Hearing

• Healthy Living

AGENDA:
CONFIRMATION OF MR. DAVID DELL'ISOLA, AS DIRECTOR OF
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONFIRMATION OF MS, SHEILA S, TORRES, AS DIRECTOR OF AGENCY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

BILL 365: AN ACT TO AMEND 5 GCA \$6208(b) AND TO ADD A NEW 5 GCA \$6208.1 RELATIVE TO MAXIMIZING THE EFFICENCY OF REVIEW OF GOVERNMENT CLAIMS. BY REDUCING THE TIME IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT MUST INVESTIGATE AND RESPOND TO CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES TO MOTOR VEHICLES FILED AGAINST IT, AND TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATIONS TO CLAIMANTS OF THE BASIS FOR DENIAL.

BILL 379: AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GCA, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

9:00 AM Monday, April 24, 2000

Legislature's Public Hearing Room

address: 777 Sinajana Commercial Building, Route 4, Sinajana, Guam 96926 telephone: 472-3431, fax: 472-3433 e-mail; jsalas@: website: KUENTOS-http://www.guam.net/sensalas TALAYA-http://wRowena Bartoni

e-mail: jsalas@sensalas.guam.net TALAYA-http://www2.ite.net/senators/sensalas Rowena Bartonico tel: 472-3431

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MINA BENTE SINOKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 1999 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 379 (COR)

Introduced by:

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J.C. Salas School K.S.Moylan A.C. Lamorena (Charles)

AN ACT TO ADD NEW SECTIONS 43103 TO 43108 TO CHAPTER 43 OF TITLE 7 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION; ENACTING NEW PROVISIONS RELATING TO MEDIATION; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. Guam law relating to 2 alternative dispute resolution has been enacted piecemeal over the past 3 three decades. The Civil Arbitration Law was enacted in March 1970 by 4 Public Law 10-119 and codified in 7 GCA Chapter 42 as part of the Civil 5 Procedure Code. Additional provisions were enacted by Public Law 12-85. 6 Chapter 43 was enacted by Public Law 19-05 whereby the "Alternate 7 Dispute Resolution Office" within the Judicial Branch was created. That 8 office is mandated to "provide training and services for mediation, 9 conciliation, arbitration and other means of settling conflicts or disputes 10 among resident of Guam." Additional statutes relating to mediation were 11 enacted by Public Laws 22-98 and 24-49. Existing Guam law is principally 12 procedural, providing little guidance with respect to what mediation is, 13 how it is meant to work, or what the role of a mediator should be. 14

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Section 3. This Act shall become effective or January 1, 2000.

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