





I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2020 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 321 -35 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telo T. Taitague 
Louise B. Muña 
James C. Moylan 
William M. Castro 

Relative to urging *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* to expedite the payment of outstanding A-status error-free tax returns for 2019 and prior years, consistent with the requirements of Public Law 35-36, in order to provide much needed financial relief to families experiencing job loss or reduced work hours due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS,** according to preliminary information the Guam Hotel and
4 Restaurant Association provided to local media at the end of March 2020, 2,500
5 employees have been laid off and more than 3,600 have had their hours reduced due to
6 the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

7 **WHEREAS,** the Guam Department of Labor informed local media
8 organizations during the first week of April 2020 that approximately 30,000 to 40,000
9 workers may seek benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program
10 which the agency has yet to establish in coordination with the U.S. Department of
11 Labor; and

1 **WHEREAS**, authorized by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic
2 Security (CARES) Act, the Public Unemployment Assistance Program provides
3 weekly benefit payments to workers affected by the COVID-19 public health
4 emergency. According to the Governor’s Office, eligible applicants include those who
5 are self-employed, independent contractors, workers with limited work experience,
6 and those living in areas without an unemployment benefits program such as Guam;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, although the CARES Act authorizes weekly benefits for displaced
9 workers for up to 39 weeks, between the period of January 27, 2020 to December 31,
10 2020, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that immediate financial relief is needed now
11 as thousands of employees who have already been laid off or had their work hours
12 reduced are struggling to pay for food, housing, medicine, vehicle and other personal
13 loans; and

14 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further acknowledges that coordination
15 efforts between the Guam Department of Labor and the U.S. Department of Labor
16 may require weeks if not months to develop and implement a local Pandemic
17 Unemployment Assistance Program; and

18 **WHEREAS**, with 4,398 tax returns for 2019 and prior years processed but
19 unpaid as of February 2020, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* seeks to provide immediate
20 financial relief to families through expedited tax refund payments as they await
21 implementation of a local Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* reiterates the policy established through
23 the FY 2020 Budget Act (Public Law 35-36) which prioritizes \$125 million for tax
24 refunds before any other appropriation; now, therefore be it,

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na*
26 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people

1 of Guam, urges *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* to expedite the payment of outstanding A-
2 status error-free tax returns for 2019 and prior years, consistent with the requirements
3 of Public Law 35-36, in order to provide much needed financial relief to families
4 experiencing job loss or reduced work hours due to the COVID-19 public health
5 emergency; and be it further;

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chair of the Committee on Rules
7 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
8 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Director of the Department of
9 Administration; to the Director of the Bureau of Budget and Management Research; to
10 the Director of the Department of Revenue and Taxation; and to the Honorable
11 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF APRIL 2020.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chair, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary