

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

LEGISLATIVE SESSION VOTING RECORD

| Resolution No. 77-35 (COR) As amended on the Floor. | Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building April 25, 2019 | | | | | |
|--|--|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------|
| NAME | Aye | Nay | Not Voting/ Abstained | Out During Roll Call | Absent | Excused |
| Senator William M. CASTRO | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Régine Biscoe LEE | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Kelly G. MARSH (TAITANO), PhD | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator James C. MOYLAN | ✓ | | | | | |
| Speaker Tina Rose MUÑA BARNES | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Louise B. MUÑA | ✓ | | | | | |
| Vice Speaker Telen Cruz NELSON | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Sabina Flores PEREZ | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Clynton E. RIDGELL | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Joe S. SAN AGUSTIN | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Amanda L. SHELTON | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Telo T. TAITAGUE | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Jose "Pedo" TERLAJE | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Therese M. TERLAJE | ✓ | | | | | |
| Senator Mary Camacho TORRES | ✓ | | | | | |

TOTAL: 15

Aye

Nay

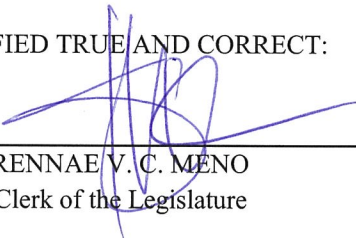
Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

Absent

Excused

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 RENNAE V. C. MENO
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

I MINA'TRENTAI SINGKO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2019 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 77-35 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

*

Introduced by:

Mary Camacho Torres
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Therese M. Terlaje
Telena Cruz Nelson
Régine Biscoe Lee
Amanda L. Shelton
Kelly Marsh (Taitano), PhD

Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Singko na Liheslaturan Guåhan* for the passage of H.R. 208, the “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,” introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of Representatives on January 3, 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the Supplemental Security Income program to qualifying individuals who reside on Guam; and to further extending *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Representative for his advocacy of Guam’s most vulnerable.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program was established
4 in 1972 through U.S. Public Law 92-603. Authorized by Title XVI of the Social
5 Security Act, the SSI program is a federal income supplement program, which provides
6 cash assistance and health care coverage to state residents, of limited income and
7 resources, who are blind, disabled, or sixty-five (65) years of age or older; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the SSI Program was designed to replace prior federal-state
2 systems of public assistance, such as the Old-Age Assistance (OAA) and Aid to the
3 Blind (AB), which was established in 1935 through the original Social Security Act, as
4 well as the Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD), which was established
5 by the Social Security Amendments of 1950; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these programs were subject to federal matching funds from
7 states—resulting in varying payment levels and eligibility requirements, as well as
8 burdensome provisions such as liens against property and mandatory relative support.
9 Despite U.S. Congress recognizing these inadequacies, which led to the creation of the
10 SSI, these adult assistance programs remain in effect for Puerto Rico, Guam, and the
11 Virgin Islands; and

12 **WHEREAS**, through its establishment, the SSI program represented “a major
13 departure from the traditional concept of public assistance...to the aged, the blind, and
14 the disabled.” In its report to the U.S. Senate in 1972, the Committee on Finance
15 expressed that the new program, to be administered by the Social Security
16 Administration (SSA), would “provide a positive assurance that the Nation’s aged,
17 blind, and disabled people...no longer have to subsist on below poverty-level incomes”
18 (U.S. Senate, 1972, p. 384); and

19 **WHEREAS**, unlike the prior federal-state programs, the SSI Program provided
20 a uniform federal income floor, with minimal barriers to eligibility. The SSI benefit
21 amounts to a monthly maximum of Seven Hundred Seventy-One Dollars (\$771) for an
22 individual and One Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Seven Dollars (\$1,157) for couples;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, though the SSI program is administered by the Social Security
25 Administration, the program differs from Social Security. Social Security, which is
26 officially known as the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance program (OASDI),

1 is financed through payroll taxes on employees and their employers, while SSI benefits
2 are financed from the general funds of the United States Treasury. SSI and OASDI
3 further have different eligibility requirements and methods of determining payment;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1976, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the
6 Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) (Public Law 94-241) integrated the CNMI into the
7 SSI program—making it the only U.S. jurisdiction outside the fifty states and the
8 District of Columbia with SSI coverage; and

9 **WHEREAS**, despite the presence of qualifying U.S. citizens residing in the
10 unincorporated territories—Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands remain
11 without SSI coverage, resulting in the continuation of federal-territorial matching based
12 on the old federal-state program models; and

13 **WHEREAS**, based on the Northern Marianas Islands’ rates of qualification for
14 SSI and payments to beneficiaries, if residents of Guam had been eligible for SSI from
15 2013 to 2017, up to 6,300 beneficiaries on average would have received SSI payments,
16 resulting in payments of up to Three Million Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars
17 (\$3,860,000) per month on average; and

18 **WHEREAS**, recognizing the need to address this inequity for otherwise
19 qualifying individuals who reside in Guam, Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
20 introduced H.R. 208, the “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,” in the
21 U.S. House of Representatives on January 3, 2019; and

22 **WHEREAS**, upon introduction, the measure was referred to the House
23 Committee on Ways and Means and subsequently referred to the Subcommittee on
24 Social Security on January 31, 2019; and

25 **WHEREAS**, while similar measures to extend coverage (H.R. 91, H.R. 364 of
26 the 113th Congress) have been introduced and urged by previous delegates to the U.S.

1 House of Representatives, such as former Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo of
2 Guam, former Congresswoman Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and
3 former Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, U.S. Congress has yet to extend SSI coverage
4 to residents of U.S. territories; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the continued efforts of Guam’s current delegate are essential as
6 extending SSI coverage to the people of Guam would aid potentially thousands of
7 residents who are blind, disabled, or sixty-five (65) years of age or older with low
8 incomes and limited resources; now, therefore be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na*
10 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guåhan* and the people
11 of Guam, express the support of *I Mina'trentai Singko Na Lihselaturan Guåhan* for the
12 passage of H.R. 208, the “Guam Supplemental Security Income Equality Act,”
13 introduced by the Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas in the United States House of
14 Representatives on January 3, 2019, which seeks to extend coverage of the
15 Supplemental Security Income program to qualifying individuals who reside on Guam;
16 and to further extend *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Representative for his
17 advocacy of Guam’s most vulnerable; and be it further;

18 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
19 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
20 the same be thereafter transmitted to Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the
21 United States of America; to the Honorable Michael R. Pence, Vice President of the
22 United States of America; to the Honorable Nancy P. Pelosi, Speaker of the United
23 States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Richard E. Neal, Chairman of the
24 U.S. House Ways and Means Committee; to the Honorable John B. Larson, Chair of
25 the U.S. House Subcommittee on Social Security; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San

- 1 Nicolas, Guam Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable
- 2 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 **MONTH** 2019.**

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Speaker

RÉGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary