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I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'LAHEN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 204-31 (COR), "AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF BEACHES AND NEARSHORE AREAS SURROUNDING GUAM,"** was on the 8th day of November, 2011, duly and regularly passed.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.
Speaker

Attested:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* this 9th day of Nov., 2011, at 4:25 o'clock P.M.

Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'lahi's Office

APPROVED:

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
I Maga'lahen Guåhan

Date: _____

Public Law No. _____

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. 204-31 (COR)

Introduced by: M. Silva Taijeron
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
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Aline A.Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF BEACHES AND NEARSHORE AREAS SURROUNDING GUAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Intent. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the island of Guam has an abundance of natural resources, including beautiful beaches and pristine ocean waters. Guam's waters have become a popular attraction for local residents and visitors to participate in swimming, fishing, surfing, diving, paddling, and other recreational and commercial water activities.

I Liheslaturan Guåhan further finds that this increased water activity in Guam has led to a subsequent increase in safety concerns and, in certain instances, the occurrence of tragic events. Past tragedies involving swimmers, paddlers and fishermen have reinforced these concerns. The increased interest and participation in activities offered in Guam's waters call for a comprehensive safety review. Information gathered from this review may demonstrate, and reinforce, the need for hiring more lifeguards and other trained personnel, who are responsible for keeping Guam's shores and waters safe.

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to require the Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct a review of the safety records of beaches and other nearshore areas islandwide, and to report the findings to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan.*

Section 2. The Department of Parks and Recreation *shall* conduct a review of the beaches and nearshore areas in Guam, including the scope and frequency of ocean activities at designated beaches and nearshore areas; any accidents, injuries and deaths attributable to the activities; and the success or failure of any safety equipment, safety features or safety procedures utilized or implemented for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the public.

For the purpose of conducting a review, the Department of Parks and Recreation may work in concert with other relevant instrumentalities of the government of Guam, including, but *not* limited to, the Guam Police Department, the Guam Fire Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the Guam Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Parks and Recreation may also seek the assistance of instrumentalities outside the government of Guam including, but *not* limited to, the United States Navy and the United States Coast Guard.

Section 3. Report to *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*. The Department of Parks and Recreation *shall* submit a report to the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* on the findings of the review, including recommendations for improving safety in Guam's beaches and nearshore areas, *no later than* January 31, 2012.

Section 4. Any funding deemed necessary for the purposes of satisfying the mandates outlined in Sections 2 and 3 of this Act *shall* be expended from the operating budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Section 5. Severability. *If* any provision of this Law or its application to any person or circumstance is found to be invalid or contrary to law, such invalidity shall *not* affect other provisions or applications of this Law which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Law are severable.