

**March 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m. 34<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature Public Hearing of Resolution No. 51-34 (LS) and 52-34 (LS)**

## **Oral Testimony**

### **Harold Cruz Testimony on Resolution 52-34: (5:20:04)**

**Harold Cruz:** Good afternoon Madam Speaker and members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature. I'm back. You know the Chamorro Land Trust is very, very dear to my heart. And I'll tell you why. I am one of the only living persons today, Mike Phillips who's back there is also alive, to write the rules and regulations for the Chamorro Land Trust Act. It was Ed Benevente, the late Senator Angel Santos, Alvin Duenas, myself with the help of Miguet, and of course Senator Nelson at the time. So it's really dear to my heart so that's why I decided to come up here. The Chamorro Land trust was passed in the 12<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature by the visionary Paul J. Bordallo almost 45 years ago. It's withstood the test of time, so you are now in a position with a fiduciary responsibility for whatever lands is left. And it's place in the trust for Chamorro people. So I ask that this body do whatever you could do to protect the Chamorro Land Trust Act, the Chamorro Land Trust Commission. I remember back in 1995 when we had the public hearing when we wrote the rules and regulations. We had the biggest public hearing in legislative history. We had over 1,000 people come down to Adelup, and we picked Adelup as the venue because there was no other place at the time to hold that many people. So we put tents up. And the Governor at the time didn't agree to have it down there, Governor Carl Guterrez he didn't. But we forced him to. Senator Terlaje you were a part of the legislature at the time, you remember that. We had over 1,000 people come and testify that we should implement the Chamorro Land Trust Act. It was just so touching how our people came together in the thousands, in the thousands. And so many thousands today have benefitted. And even though the properties probably don't have power and water, they still have benefits because they're able to farm, they bring their own water in, purchase generators, and live off the land.

So let's not stop fighting. Let's not stop fighting. Do what we could do to preserve the trust. Thank you very much, Si Yu'os Ma'ase.