

**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
185-36 (LS)	Sabina Flores Perez V. Anthony Ada Frank Blas Jr. Joanne M. Brown Christopher M. Dueñas James C. Moylan Tina Rose Muña Barnes Telena Cruz Nelson Clynton E. Ridgell Joe S. San Agustin Amanda L. Shelton Telo T. Tantague Jose "Pedro" Terlaje Therese M. Terlaje Mary Camacho Torres	Relative to recognizing the month of October 2021 as "National Substance Abuse Prevention Month", and supporting Government of Guam interagency response in preventing substance abuse amongst our youth in the face of greater pressures placed on our community from the COVID-19 health emergency.	10/1/21 11:07a.m.	10/13/21 5:30 p.m.	10/1/21					

Resolution No. 185-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

- Sabrina Flores Perez
- V. Anthony Ada
- Frank Blas Jr.
- Juanne Brisen
- Christopher M. Dueñas
- James C. Moylan
- Tina Rose Muña Barnes
- Telena Cruz Nelson
- Clynton E. Ridgell
- Jose S. San Agustin
- Amanda L. Shelton
- Telo T. Tatangue
- Jose "Pedro" Terlaje
- Therese M. Terlaje
- Mary Camacho Torres



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 Evan S. H. ...
 ES 10/2/21

Relative to recognizing the observance of "National Substance Abuse Prevention Month" during the month of October 2021; and commending the various Government of Guam and private inter-agencies response group for supporting the prevention of substance abuse amongst our youth in the face of greater pressures placed on our community from the COVID-19 health emergency.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, October 2021 is recognized as "National Substance Abuse Prevention Month" which highlights the vital role of substance abuse prevention in the improvement of both individual and community health on Guam; and

WHEREAS, family is of central importance on Guam, therefore, we, as legislators, citizens, and members of our community must do all that we can to safeguard our children against the harmful effects of substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data reviewed by the Guam State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) revealed that "1 in 4 high school students in Guam is a current user of marijuana." Additionally, "current and lifetime marijuana use among Guam students are higher than the U.S. median"; and

WHEREAS, according to the SEOW, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey documented that, "in 2017, about 36% of high school youth reported they had been offered, sold, or given an illicit drug on school property; about 5.6% of Guam high school students report having tried methamphetamines, and 13% reported using synthetic marijuana"; and

WHEREAS, electronic vapor products, to include e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens, e-cigs, e-hookahs, hookah pens, and mods, have also become highly popular amongst the youth. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 35.2% of Guam high school students and 34.6% of Guam middle school students currently use an electronic vapor product; and data from the U.N. World Health Organization Global Youth Tobacco Survey has indicated that Guam has one of the highest rates of electronic vapor product use among youth; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, nearly thirty percent (30%) of middle school students have consumed alcohol, and eleven percent (11%) had initiated alcohol use before the age of eleven (11); and

WHEREAS, studies reveal that drug or alcohol use at a young age can affect brain development. Additionally, reports on adolescent drug use show that when a person's first drug use is prior to the age of fifteen (15), it is highly likely that they will develop a substance abuse problem as an adult. People who start using drugs at a young age are also at risk of deficient brain neurodevelopment which affects performance and functioning of the brain; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has put additional strain on families, especially those experiencing financial hardships, and the increased stress amongst families can affect an individual's mental health and may result in their reliance on substances such as alcohol or illicit drugs to relieve that stress; and people who are drug or alcohol dependent are also more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19 and may experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, and grief; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Department of Education, and various non-governmental and non-profit organizations have existing programs that help to curb drug abuse and dependence amongst our families and in our communities through outreach, prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation that are essential to our island's health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 response has affected access to drug prevention, intervention and mental health programs, and other government services for our youth which can exacerbate current drug and mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan recognizes the hard work, effort, and commitment of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Department of Education, *Mate'lu*, GALA, Inc., *Inafa'maolek* Conciliation Program, Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam, the Rotaract Club of the Marianas, Thrive Coalition (WestCare Pacific Islands), *Tohge* Guam, Sanctuary, Inc., Snakapit Wrestling Academy Guam, Phoenix Wrestling Club, the Guam Conservatory of Arts, and PBS GUAM in providing essential services and adapting to the challenges brought on by the public health emergency to effectively address substance abuse prevention and mental health challenges; and

WHEREAS, I Liheslatura also remembers those who have lost their lives to substance abuse, and acknowledges those in recovery, as well as their children, parents, families, and friends who are supporting them, as I Liheslatura determines that the health and safety of Guam's young people, especially children, must be prioritized, and this means significantly reducing and ultimately preventing substance abuse amongst our youth and families; and I Liheslatura encourages the strengthening of the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) amongst government agencies and community partners that serve our youth and families in addressing substance abuse prevention, environmental risk factors, mental/behavioral health issues and intervention; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I Mina Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the observance of "National Substance Abuse Prevention Month" during the month of October 2021; and commend and support the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Department of Education, and the various non-governmental and non-profit organizations in their efforts to prevent, intervene, and educate Guam's youth and their families on the negative, life-long effects of substance abuse; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Director Therese Arriola; to Department of Public Health and Social Services Director Arthur San Agustin; to Guam Department of Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Muga'ngin Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.

Therese M. Terlaje
 THERESE M. TERLAJE
 Speaker

Amanda L. Shelton
 AMANDA L. SHELTON
 Legislative Secretary



I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 185-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez
V. Anthony Ada
Frank Blas Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
James C. Moylan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Telena Cruz Nelson
Clynton E. Ridgell
Joe S. San Agustin
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Jose “Pedo” Terlaje
Therese M. Terlaje
Mary Camacho Torres

Relative to recognizing the observance of “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month” during the month of October 2021; and commending the various Government of Guam and private inter-agencies response group for supporting the prevention of substance abuse amongst our youth in the face of greater pressures placed on our community from the COVID-19 health emergency.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***

2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS,** October 2021 is recognized as “National Substance Abuse
4 Prevention Month” which highlights the vital role of substance abuse prevention in the
5 improvement of both individual and community health on Guam; and

1 **WHEREAS**, family is of central importance on Guam, therefore, we, as
2 legislators, citizens, and members of our community must do all that we can to
3 safeguard our children against the harmful effects of substance abuse; and

4 **WHEREAS**, prior to the pandemic, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data
5 reviewed by the Guam State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) revealed
6 that “1 in 4 high school students in Guam is a current user of marijuana.” Additionally,
7 “current and lifetime marijuana use among Guam students are higher than the U.S.
8 median”; and

9 **WHEREAS**, according to the SEOW, the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
10 documented that, “in 2017, about 36% of high school youth reported they had been
11 offered, sold, or given an illicit drug on school property; about 5.6% of Guam high
12 school students report having tried methamphetamines, and 13% reported using
13 synthetic marijuana”; and

14 **WHEREAS**, electronic vapor products, to include e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens,
15 e-cigars, e-hookahs, hookah pens, and mods, have also become highly popular amongst
16 the youth. According to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 35.2% of Guam high
17 school students and 34.6% of Guam middle school students currently use an electronic
18 vapor product; and data from the U.N. World Health Organization Global Youth
19 Tobacco Survey has indicated that Guam has one of the highest rates of electronic vapor
20 product use among youth; and

21 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2019 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, nearly thirty
22 percent (30%) of middle school students have consumed alcohol, and eleven percent
23 (11%) had initiated alcohol use before the age of eleven (11); and

24 **WHEREAS**, studies reveal that drug or alcohol use at a young age can affect
25 brain development. Additionally, reports on adolescent drug use show that when a

1 person's first drug use is prior to the age of fifteen (15), it is highly likely that they will
2 develop a substance abuse problem as an adult. People who start using drugs at a young
3 age are also at risk of deficient brain neurodevelopment which affects performance and
4 functioning of the brain; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has put additional strain on families,
6 especially those experiencing financial hardships, and the increased stress amongst
7 families can affect an individual's mental health and may result in their reliance on
8 substances such as alcohol or illicit drugs to relieve that stress; and people who are drug
9 or alcohol dependent are also more likely to get severely ill from COVID-19 and may
10 experience higher rates of depression, anxiety, trauma, and grief; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Guam
12 Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Department of Education,
13 and various non-governmental and non-profit organizations have existing programs that
14 help to curb drug abuse and dependence amongst our families and in our communities
15 through outreach, prevention, intervention, and rehabilitation that are essential to our
16 island's health and safety; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 response has affected access to drug prevention,
18 intervention and mental health programs, and other government services for our youth
19 which can exacerbate current drug and mental health issues; and

20 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the hard work, effort, and
21 commitment of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Guam
22 Department of Public Health and Social Services, the Guam Department of Education,
23 *Mañe'lu*, GALA, Inc., *Inafa'maolek* Conciliation Program, Youth for Youth LIVE!
24 Guam, the Rotaract Club of the Marianas, Thrive Coalition (WestCare Pacific Islands),
25 *Tohge* Guam, Sanctuary, Inc., Snakepit Wrestling Academy Guam, Phoenix Wrestling

1 Club, the Guam Conservatory of Arts, and PBS GUAM in providing essential services
2 and adapting to the challenges brought on by the public health emergency to effectively
3 address substance abuse prevention and mental health challenges; and

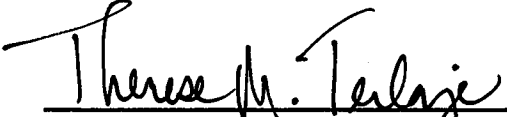
4 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslatura* also remembers those who have lost their lives to
5 substance abuse, and acknowledges those in recovery, as well as their children, parents,
6 families, and friends who are supporting them, as *I Liheslatura* determines that the
7 health and safety of Guam’s young people, especially children, must be prioritized, and
8 this means significantly reducing and ultimately preventing substance abuse amongst
9 our youth and families; and *I Liheslatura* encourages the strengthening of the
10 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) amongst government agencies and
11 community partners that serve our youth and families in addressing substance abuse
12 prevention, environmental risk factors, mental/behavioral health issues and
13 intervention; now therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
15 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the observance of “National Substance Abuse
16 Prevention Month” during the month of October 2021; and commend and support the
17 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the Department of Public Health and
18 Social Services, the Guam Department of Education, and the various non-governmental
19 and non-profit organizations in their efforts to prevent, intervene, and educate Guam’s
20 youth and their families on the negative, life-long effects of substance abuse; and be it
21 further

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
23 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Guam
24 Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Director Therese Arriola; to Department of
25 Public Health and Social Services Director Arthur San Agustin; to Guam Department

- 1 of Education Superintendent Jon Fernandez; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon
- 2 Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 1ST DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary



OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor,
Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

October 12, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez *SFP*

Subject: **Presentation of Resolution No. 185-36 (LS)**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai

Please join us for the presentation of **Resolution No. 185-36 (LS)**, Relative to recognizing the month of October 2021 as “National Substance Abuse Prevention Month”; and supporting Government of Guam interagency response in preventing substance abuse amongst our youth in the face of greater pressures placed on our community from the COVID-19 health emergency.

The presentation will take place on **Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.**, via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* Zoom Conference platform.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at 989-2968. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 112-4, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!