

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
543-37 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, along with the many dedicated community advocates, organizations, and government agencies, for their ongoing efforts in addressing and preventing family violence through public education, advocacy, and support services during October 2024, "Family Violence Awareness Month," and for their commitment to fostering a safer and healthier island community.	9/27/24 2:56 p.m.	10/5/24 11:30 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 543-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, along with the many dedicated community advocates, organizations, and government agencies, for their ongoing efforts in addressing and preventing family violence through public education, advocacy, and support services during October 2024, “*Family Violence Awareness Month*,” and for their commitment to fostering a safer and healthier island community.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam joins the nation in recognizing October 2024 as “*Family*
4 *Violence Awareness Month*,” which seeks to promote public awareness of family
5 violence, honor victims, and encourage prevention efforts in our community; and

6 **WHEREAS**, “*Family Violence Awareness Month*” was first introduced in 1981
7 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence to unify and support the
8 millions of victims of domestic violence across the United States, and its purpose has
9 evolved to emphasize prevention, support services, and community engagement; and

10 **WHEREAS**, under Guam law, family violence encompasses acts of domestic
11 abuse, including physical, emotional, sexual, and psychological harm, and is
12 considered a serious criminal offense that undermines the fabric of families and
13 communities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, domestic violence remains a pervasive issue across the United
2 States, where 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men will experience domestic violence in
3 their lifetime, and every day, an average of three women are killed by a current or
4 former intimate partner; and

5 **WHEREAS**, on Guam, family violence is one of the most commonly reported
6 crimes. In 2022, the Guam Police Department reported four hundred thirty-five (435)
7 incidents of family violence, marking a significant increase from previous years.
8 Additionally, data from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC)
9 indicated a rise in demand for crisis intervention services during and after the COVID-
10 19 pandemic, with calls to the 24-hour crisis hotline surging to over thirty (30) calls per
11 day, compared to an average of twenty-five (25) calls per month before the pandemic;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, substance abuse has increasingly been recognized as a contributing
14 factor to family violence on Guam. According to the Office of the Attorney General of
15 Guam, 60% of family violence cases in 2023 were linked to alcohol or drug abuse,
16 underscoring the need for integrated intervention strategies that address both substance
17 abuse and family violence; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence,
19 along with numerous community advocates, service providers, and government
20 agencies, have been at the forefront of the fight against family violence. These
21 organizations provide vital support to victims, including shelter, counseling, legal
22 assistance, and advocacy, while also working to raise public awareness through
23 educational campaigns, community outreach, and collaboration with local partners; and

24 **WHEREAS**, community organizations including the Guam Police Department
25 and its Domestic Assault Response Team (DART), Guam Legal Services Corporation,
26 the Healing Hearts Crisis Center, and Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) are

1 dedicated to providing services that empower survivors, reduce recidivism, and promote
2 family well-being; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Family Violence Registry, established under Public Law
4 31-103, continues to play an essential role in protecting the public by providing access
5 to information about individuals convicted of family violence offenses, thereby
6 promoting community safety and accountability; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, in
8 collaboration with various community partners, including government and non-
9 governmental organizations, faith-based groups, and advocacy organizations, have
10 taken steps to directly and collectively confront Guam’s family violence crisis; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the community organizations include Allied Human Resources,
12 Archdiocese of Agana, St. Anthony Catholic Church, Association of Individual,
13 Marriage, and Family Therapists, *Ayuda* Foundation / Island Girl Power, Bethel Church
14 Association, Catholic Social Service, Erica’s House, Healing Hearts Crisis Center -
15 Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Guam’s Alternative Lifestyle
16 Association (GALA), Guam Legal Services Corporation-Disability Law Center, *Guma’*
17 *Mami*, Inc., Guam Sexual Assault and Abuse Resource Center Association, *Inafa’*
18 *Maolek* Conciliation, *Mañelu* Guam, Oasis Empowerment Center, Pacific Human
19 Resource Services, Inc., Project Foresight, Sanctuary, Inc., The Salvation Army,
20 University of Guam Violence against Women Prevention Program - Victim Services,
21 Victim Advocates Reaching Out, WestCare Pacific Islands, Andersen Air Force Base,
22 Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Department of
23 Public Health and Social Services, Department of Youth Affairs, Guam Community
24 College, Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office, Guam
25 Department of Education, Guam National Guard Sexual Assault Prevention and
26 Response Program, Guam Police Department, Judiciary of Guam, Joint Region
27 Marianas, Naval Base Guam, Office of the Attorney General of Guam, Public Defender

1 Services Corporation, U.S. Attorney’s Office – Districts of Guam and The Northern
2 Marianas Islands; and now therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
4 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the Guam Coalition Against
5 Sexual Assault & Family Violence, along with the many dedicated community
6 advocates, organizations, and government agencies, for their ongoing efforts in
7 addressing and preventing family violence through public education, advocacy, and
8 support services during October 2024, “*Family Violence Awareness Month*,” and for
9 their commitment to fostering a safer and healthier island community; and be it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
11 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam
12 Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, and to the Honorable Lourdes A.
13 Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.