

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

| Resolution No. | Sponsor | Title | Date Intro | Date of Presentation | Date Adopted | Date Referred | Referred to | PUBLIC HEARING DATE | DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED | NOTES |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 544-37 (LS) | Therese M. Terlaje | Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Second (42nd) Year Anniversary; and to congratulate them on the occasion of its Third (3rd) Annual Purple Gala fundraising event aimed at supporting critical victim services and operations that provide crisis support, advocacy, and resources to those in need. | 9/30/24 8:00 a.m. | TBA | | | | | | |

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

Resolution No. 544-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Second (42nd) Year Anniversary; and to congratulate them on the occasion of its Third (3rd) Annual Purple Gala fundraising event aimed at supporting critical victim services and operations that provide crisis support, advocacy, and resources to those in need.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) is a non-profit
4 organization founded in 1982 by the Guam Task Force on Family Abuse and Sexual
5 Assault, with the mission of providing crisis support, including domestic violence,
6 sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of violence and trauma
7 that affect individuals and families on Guam; and

8 **WHEREAS**, VARO was established in response to the growing need for
9 victim advocacy services on the island, recognizing that victims of crime often face
10 significant emotional, psychological, and financial challenges in the aftermath of their
11 experiences; and

12 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, VARO has provided a comprehensive range of
13 services aimed at supporting victims through every stage of their recovery, including a
14 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter, crisis counseling, safety planning, legal

1 advocacy, and support during court proceedings, ensuring that no victim is left
2 without the help and resources they need; and

3 **WHEREAS**, VARO has played a critical role in bridging the gap between
4 victims and essential community services by collaborating with local law
5 enforcement, legal professionals, healthcare providers, and other organizations to
6 create a network of care that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of victims;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, through ongoing outreach, education, and advocacy efforts, VARO
9 has raised public awareness of the challenges faced by victims, actively engaging the
10 community in conversations about violence, victimization, and the steps that can be
11 taken to reduce and prevent these crimes; and

12 **WHEREAS**, VARO has been instrumental in empowering victims to regain
13 control over their lives by offering programs that focus on healing and recovery, helping
14 them navigate the legal system, secure restraining orders, and find safe and stable
15 housing, while also advocating for stronger protections and policies to safeguard their
16 rights; and

17 **WHEREAS**, over the years, VARO has expanded its services to meet the
18 evolving needs of Guam’s victims, including providing culturally sensitive services that
19 take into account the unique social and cultural dynamics of the island community,
20 ensuring that every victim, regardless of background, has access to the care they
21 deserve; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Annual Purple Gala serves as a pivotal fundraising event that
23 allows VARO to continue and expand its vital services, ensuring that survivors of
24 violence and trauma have a lifeline in their darkest moments and that the organization
25 can maintain its ability to offer life-saving support free of charge to those who need it;
26 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the funds raised through the Purple Gala directly contribute to
2 VARO’s operations, including maintaining its 24-hour crisis hotline, providing
3 emergency shelter, and housing support, offering crisis counseling and therapeutic
4 services, and ensuring that legal advocacy services remain available for victims as they
5 seek justice and protection; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the event also serves as a platform to honor and celebrate the
7 strength, resilience, and courage of victims and survivors, and to recognize the
8 dedication and compassion of VARO’s advocates, volunteers, and supporters, whose
9 tireless efforts have positively impacted countless lives in the community; and

10 **WHEREAS**, VARO has become a cornerstone of victim support on Guam,
11 offering more than just crisis intervention—it provides hope, safety, and a path toward
12 healing, with a vision of creating a community where every victim has the opportunity
13 to rebuild and thrive; and now therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
15 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO)
16 on the occasion of its Forty-Second (42nd) Year Anniversary; and to congratulate them
17 on the occasion of its Third (3rd) Annual Purple Gala fundraising event aimed at
18 supporting critical victim services and operations that provide crisis support, advocacy,
19 and resources to those in need; and be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest
21 to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Victim
22 Advocates Reaching Out (VARO), and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
23 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

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