

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
238-34 (COR)	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. Joe S. San Agustin	Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center; Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE Office), for their efforts in coordinating and collaborating the Guam events in the fight against suicide as we wish to Break the Silence: Tell Your Story, in commemorating National Suicide Prevention Month to our island and our people.	9/19/17 3:26 p.m.	9/29/17 4:30 p.m.						

**I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session**

Resolution No. 238 -34 (COP)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. ✓

Joe S. San Agustin ✍

Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center; Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE Office), for their efforts in coordinating and collaborating the Guam events in the fight against suicide as we wish to Break the Silence: Tell Your Story, in commemorating National Suicide Prevention Month to our island and our people.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, Suicide is a public health issue as there is a high prevalence of
4 suicide on Guam; and

5 **WHEREAS**, suicide is the seventh (7th) leading cause of death. In 2017, there
6 have been 23 deaths in Guam, averaging about one every two weeks; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in our diverse population in 2016, one in three suicide deaths
8 occur among those ages 20-29 years of age. Suicide rates are highest among those
9 ages 30-39 years of age; and

10 **WHEREAS**, male suicide rates are 5 times higher than females rates on Guam.
11 60% of suicide deaths took place in the home; and

2017 SEP 19 PM 3:26 C.S.

1 **WHEREAS**, Chuukese and Chamorro’s maintain the highest rates of suicide
2 on Guam. Guam’s suicide death rate is 55% higher than the U.S. national rate; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the risk of suicide exists in multiple layers with the impact of each
4 suicide death on family members, friends and other individuals. Every day, we
5 encounter individuals who are fighting for strength and courage to cope and continue
6 to live despite their pain and loss; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with help, there is hope. Guam has seen a growing number of
8 trained *community gatekeepers* – those who have been trained in evidence-based
9 trainings on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention. These *gatekeepers* are
10 regular individuals with extraordinary willingness to help others whose lives are at
11 risk. They are counselors, teachers, nurses and doctors who are willing to go beyond
12 the surface in caring for their students and patients. They are also parents, siblings,
13 best friends, classmates and coworkers who are concerned about their loved one.
14 Suicide is a tough subject to talk about, but they took on the challenge of surpassing
15 the shame and taboo associated with it; and

16 **WHEREAS**, suicide is becoming everyone’s business. As of early 2016, there
17 are over 3,000 individuals trained in suicide prevention and first aid skills. Trainings
18 such as safeTALK, ASIST and Connect continue to be offered to the island
19 community through Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and its partner
20 agencies, namely: The *I Pinangon* Campus Suicide Prevention Center, Inafa’Maolek
21 Mediation Center, Guam Department of Education (GDOE), Department of Public
22 Health and Social Services (DPHSS, Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH), and The
23 Guam Army National Guard; and

24 **WHEREAS**, resources for help are growing to address the issue of suicide in
25 various levels in Guam’s community. Suicide and substance use prevention efforts

1 have been provided through the PEACE Partnerships for Success grant's ten (10)
2 community non-profit organizations; prevention programs have been provided in
3 public and private elementary through secondary schools, youth residential treatment
4 programs, neighborhood/residential complexes, faith based and community settings.
5 PEACE Partnerships for Success grantees include Big Brothers Big Sister of Guam,
6 Guam Amateur Baseball Association, Guåhan Academy Charter School, Guam
7 Alternative Lifestyle Association, Island Girl Power, Oneop Evangelical Church of
8 Guam, Phoenix Wrestling Club of the Marianas, Sanctuary Inc., and Santa Teresita
9 Church; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Suicide prevention month is made possible through diligent
11 efforts of the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, Survivors of Suicide
12 Support Group, US Navy , Guam Army National Guard, UOG Psychology Club,
13 Guam Department of Education Student Support Services, Guam Alternative Lifestyle
14 Association, Lifeworks Guam, Island Girl Power, Guam Identified Families,
15 Department of Youth Affairs, Department of Public Health and Social Services Bisita
16 I Familia, Transforming Ourselves through Healing Growth, and
17 Enrichment(TOHGE), Youth for Youth Live! Guam, Sanctuary Inc., Senator Dennis
18 Rodriguez, Jr. and UOG Isa Psychological Services; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's PEACE Advisory Council provides guidance and
20 support for the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center Prevention and Training
21 Branch suicide prevention efforts. The Guam community is a believer that *behavioral*
22 *health is essential to health*. As much as we take care of our physical fitness, we
23 prioritize our mental health and emotional well-being. It takes strength for an
24 individual to face and admit emotional pain; courage to stand up and ask for help and
25 support; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the mission of Guam’s Suicide prevention month is to relay the
2 message of “Break the Silence: Tell Your Story; a means to encourage our people to
3 speak out and speak up to break the taboo that suicide has become in our community;
4 now be it resolved.

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Kuåttro Na*
6 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Lihselaturan Guåhan* and the people
7 of Guam, recognize and commend the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center;
8 Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE Office), for their efforts in coordinating and
9 collaborating the Guam events in the fight against suicide as we wish to Break the
10 Silence: Tell Your Story, in commemorating National Suicide Prevention Month to
11 our island and our people.; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
13 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
14 the same be thereafter transmitted to Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center;
15 Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE Office); and to the Honorable Edward J.B.
16 Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI KUÅTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE ____
DAY OF ____ 2017.**

Benjamin J.F. Cruz
Speaker

Régine Biscoe Lee
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Régine Biscoe Lee
Legislative Secretary