

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
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
256-34 (COR)	B. J.F. Cruz	Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association of Guam and the Palauan Community in recognition and commemoration of their independence on the auspicious occasion of the 18th Annual Celebration of the Establishment of the Republic of Belau.	10/03/17 4:47 p.m.	10/07/17 11:00 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 256-34 (WR)

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz 

Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association of Guam and the Palauan Community in recognition and commemoration of their independence on the auspicious occasion of the 18th Annual Celebration of the Establishment of the Republic of Belau.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Micronesian people of Palau and the people of Guam
4 share a history spanning more than four millennia; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Palauans first greeted British traders and government
6 officials visiting in the 18th century followed by influence-expanding Spaniards in
7 the 19th century. Spain claimed rights over Palau and other Micronesian islands in
8 1885 after Pope Leo XIII, to avert war between the two countries, issued the
9 Protocol of Rome granting sovereignty to Spain and to Germany the rights to do
10 business and enter ports in the region. By 1899, financially exhausted with
11 administering colonies in Micronesia, Spain sold the island groups except for
12 Guam to Germany for \$4.2 million; and

13 **WHEREAS**, control of the Micronesian islands, Palau included, was then
14 legally granted to Japan in 1920 as a mandate at the Paris Peace Conference by the
15 League of Nations after World War I. After the historic battles of Peleliu and
16 Angaur in September 1944 and the United States' subsequent defeat of Japan in
17 World War II, which took the lives of more than 2,000 Americans and 10,000
18 Japanese, the United States gained control of what was then called the Marshall,

2017 OCT -3 PM 4: 47 05

1 Caroline, and Mariana Islands through the auspices of the United Nations in 1947
2 as part of the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), with Palau
3 administered as one of the three island groups' six districts; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after forty-seven years as part of the U.N. Trust Territory of
5 the Pacific Islands under a U.S. administration, Palau's leaders opted for separation
6 from the other island areas in a special referendum in 1978, and on July 9, 1980, the
7 Palau constitution was ratified, and its first constitutional elections were held
8 thereby creating the Republic of Palau in 1981; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Palau, adopted self-government by way of its Constitution and
10 entered into the Compact of Free Association with the United States, which was
11 approved in 1993 by the people of the Republic after eight referendums and an
12 amendment to the nuclear-free clause of the Palau Constitution; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in May 1994 the United Nations Trusteeship Council issued a
14 Resolution requesting the Government of the United States, in consultation with
15 the Government of Palau, to agree on a date on or about October 1, 1994 for the
16 full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association, and in July 1994 the
17 President of the United States, William "Bill" J. Clinton, reaffirmed October 1,
18 1994, as the effective date of the Compact, provided that all legal challenges to the
19 Compact had been resolved; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau joined the United Nations as its 185th
21 member and took its seat in the U.N. in December 1994; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau is an island nation in the northwest
23 Pacific Ocean, located east of the Philippines, and perched on the Kyushu-Palau
24 Ridge. The westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands consists of 20 large islands
25 and 566 smaller islands and is one of the world's youngest and least populated
26 nations; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Koror or "Oreor", the largest state in Palau, is where seventy
28 percent of the republic's population live and is the place that hosts the most annual

1 festivities and special events for the island nation and served as the capital from
2 independence, in 1994 to 2006, when the capital was moved to Ngerulmud in
3 Melekeok; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the splendor of Palau’s tropical wonder, with emerald green
5 islands stretching more than 400 spectacular miles across pristine azure waters, is a
6 Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising majestically from the sea, nourished by
7 ocean currents and sculpted by nature and time, creating the stunning, world-
8 famous Rock Islands of Palau, a marvel of nature; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Palau, was named the number one *Underwater Wonder of the*
10 *World* by Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research
11 (CEDAM) International, an organization of divers, marine scientists and
12 conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral reefs, blue holes,
13 WWII wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels, and over 60 vertical drop-offs are found
14 in Palau where three major ocean currents meet to create an environment of
15 abundance and enormous variety of marine life; the waters surrounding the Rock
16 Islands literally teem with over 1,500 varieties of reef and pelagic fish and more
17 than four times the number of coral species found in the Caribbean; and

18 **WHEREAS**, this small nation, a world leader in the global struggle to save
19 our planet, stands tall among the nations setting new standards for environmental
20 stewardship and nature conservancy which has contributed enormously towards the
21 progress of the people of Palau. The traditional leadership, the National Congress,
22 and the current administration led by the Honorable President of the Republic,
23 Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. have worked together to move towards developing a
24 thriving and prosperous tourism industry and a vibrant future based on cultural
25 values and protection of its natural resources; and

26 **WHEREAS**, Palau’s wealth is not just found in its natural beauty but also
27 its human resources, a well-educated and highly talented people, who have worked
28 hard to maintain their cultural identity by working together to promote, protect,

1 and perpetuate the very important resources of their traditions, their cultural
2 integrity, and their history of a free and independent people; and

3 **WHEREAS**, soon after World War II, the first Palauans brought their
4 culture of hard work and respect for family and traditions to Guam, after the lifting
5 of the security naval clearance for Guam, to work and further their education; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Palauans on Guam continued their social and customary
7 gatherings in Guam and built two community meeting houses or *abai* in the mid
8 1970's in the Harmon cliff line area. Organizing themselves as Palauan
9 Community Association of Guam (PCAG), Palauans held softball tournaments and
10 myriad cultural and social activities at those *abai* through the early 1990s, when the
11 land was returned to original landowners and they were forced to vacate their *abai*;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS** the PCAG serves as the non-profit umbrella organization for all
14 Palauan clubs here on Guam representing the sixteen (16) states that comprise the
15 Republic of Palau: Aimeliik, Airai, Angaur, Hatohobei, Kayangel, Koror,
16 Melekeok, Ngaraard, Ngarchelong, Ngardmau, Ngatpang, Ngchesar,
17 Ngeremlengui, Ngiwal, Peleliu and Sonsorol; and after several years of keeping a
18 low profile, and looking for property and means to build new *abais* throughout the
19 late 1990s and 2000s, the PCAG refocused its efforts to revitalizing the
20 organization and the Palauan community on island; and

21 **WHEREAS** PCAG continued to actively participate in the various local
22 activities utilizing a wonderful opportunity to showcase Palauan cultural
23 performances and traditions and reinforce their community participation in Guam's
24 largest community event when they entered a float in the 68th Liberation Day
25 Parade festivities of 2012 and won 2nd Place in the non-profit organization category
26 and repeating the 2nd Place win with their float entry in this year's 73rd Liberation
27 Day Parade; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan Community Association of Guam
2 are proud to be strong supporters of our island and the general island community
3 by contributing to various educational, sports, and community charities over the
4 past several years like the hosting of the annual Palau Softball League from March
5 to June; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan community have continued to
7 enrich the proud cultural diversity we have on Guam and endow our island with
8 their unique and collective strength; now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
10 hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahån* and the people of Guam commemorate
11 the 23rd Independence of the Republic of Palau with the Palau Community
12 Association by means of this celebration, and further extends a sincere *Un*
13 *Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse* to all our fellow Palauans on Guam for the positive
14 contributions they have made for the betterment of our island community; and be it
15 further

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
17 Rules certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and
18 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Tommy E.
19 Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau; the Palau Council of Chiefs;
20 the Palau Community Association of Guam; the Honorable Congresswoman
21 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the U.S. House of Representative; and
22 the Honorable Edward B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

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

BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Speaker

REGINE BISCOE LEE
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

REGINE BISCOE LEE
Legislative Secretary