

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 181-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Sam Mabini, Ph.D.
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to extending sincere gratitude, *Un Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase'*, and special recognition to the Family Violence Awareness Month Task Force members, Guam's practitioners, and the numerous advocates who have tirelessly provided support to the victims of family violence over the years, and who have also increased community awareness on the reduction and prevention of family violence; and further encouraging the people of Guam to actively unite in the elimination of family violence which negatively impacts the lives of many of Guam's children and families, as we commemorate the month of October 2011 as "Family Violence Awareness Month".

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

3 **WHEREAS**, it has been proven that family violence can take numerous forms,
4 including physical, sexual, emotional or verbal, directed against a person who is the
5 abuser's intimate partner, relative or friend, and could affect any person regardless of
6 age, sexual orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, culture, education,
7 religion or economic status; and

8 **WHEREAS**, research over the years has highlighted that children in homes
9 where abuse among adults occurs, are often neglected at a rate much higher than the
10 national average, and studies further show that children from violent homes have a
11 notably higher risk of alcohol or drug abuse, and juvenile delinquency; with the results
12 showing that these children are six (6) times more likely to commit suicide; twenty-
13 four (24) times more likely to commit sexual assault crimes; and fifty (50) times more
14 likely to abuse drugs or alcohol; thus stressing that children from abusive homes
15 typically carry these terrible experiences of violence with them into adulthood, and
16 affecting even the next generation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, recent statistics gathered through the Guam Police Department
18 exhibit an alarming rate of violence in homes on Guam, in which family violence-
19 related offenses account for two hundred four (204) cases of misdemeanor and felony
20 family violence combined; five (5) cases of misdemeanor sexual assault; fifty-two
21 (52) cases of felony sexual assault with arrest for abuse and neglect offenses against
22 family and children; and two (2) deaths as a result of family violence; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Superior Court of Guam, Courts and Ministerial Division, in
24 the previous years recorded four hundred thirty-two (432) combined cases of felony

1 and misdemeanor family violence, one hundred twenty-seven (127) combined cases of
2 felony and misdemeanor criminal sexual conduct, and eighty-three (83) protection
3 orders filed; in addition, the Probation Services Division reported eight hundred
4 ninety-nine (899) new family violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases, with
5 more than eight hundred eighty-three (883) defendants under supervision by the end
6 of 2010; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Alee Shelter, Erica's House, the Public Defender Service
8 Corporation and the Attorney General's Office have provided eight hundred twenty-
9 two (822) victims with direct services, and have facilitated additional referrals to other
10 service providers; and

11 **WHEREAS**, family violence is often ignored and tolerated by our society, and
12 many victims feel isolated, ashamed, and even responsible for the abuse, often
13 blaming themselves; with many men and women being reluctant to admit to the
14 incidence of family violence, and are further reluctant to seek help beyond their
15 families, leading some experts to believe that the actual prevalence of family violence
16 is much higher than the statistics indicate; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP VAW
18 sub grantees, government and non-government organizations, faith-based
19 organizations, and other community partners have joined forces to directly and
20 collectively confront this family violence crises. These community organizations
21 include the following: Alee Shelter, Catholic Social Service; Andersen Family
22 Support Services, Fleet and Family Support Services; the Archdiocese of *Agaña*; the
23 Office of the Attorney General, Crime Victim Response Unit; the Department of
24 Corrections, Parole Division/Training; the Department of Education; the Department

1 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Healing Hearts Crisis Center; the Department
2 of Public Health and Social Services; the Department of Youth Affairs; Erica's House
3 Visitation Center; the Governor's Community Outreach, Federal Programs Office; the
4 Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*; the Guam
5 Police Department, Victim Assistance Unit; *Guma'Mami*, Inc.; *Inafa'Maolek*; the
6 Mayors Council of Guam; Guam's Media; Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD);
7 the Public Defender Service Corporation; the Guam Judiciary – the Superior Court of
8 Guam Client Services and Family Counseling Division, the Judicial Council, and the
9 Superior Court of Guam Probation and Marshals Divisions; Sanctuary, Inc.; the
10 University of Guam; and the Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and

11 **WHEREAS**, the incredible effort, compassion, and untiring dedication of these
12 volunteers, professionals, and organizations should be highly recognized and
13 applauded; now therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby
15 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the members of the
16 "Family Violence Awareness Month" Task Force, and Guam's practitioners and
17 advocates, for their efforts in helping to raise awareness, and for their support of the
18 victims of family violence, on the observance of the month of October 2011 as
19 "Family Violence Awareness Month"; and does further extend much gratitude and *Un*
20 *Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse* to these individuals and organizations for the
21 significant contributions they have made, and continue to make, to reduce the crime of
22 family violence on Guam; and encourages the people of Guam to positively contribute
23 towards the elimination of family violence altogether; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
2 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
3 members of the 2011 Family Violence Planning Committee; to Immaculate Heart of
4 Mary Catholic Church; to Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family
5 Violence; to Guam Sexual Assault and Abuse Resource Center Association; to Guam
6 Family Justice Center; to *San Dimas/San Dionisio* Catholic Parishes; and to the
7 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 22ND DAY OF AUGUST 2011.



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary