

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

**Resolution No. 195-31 (LS)**

Introduced by:

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

**Relative to recognizing and commending the Prevention and Training Branch staff of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and other PEACE Council stakeholders, for raising awareness of suicide prevention, and for providing intervention training on Guam; and does further extend *Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse* to them as they work with national partners and continue in their diligent efforts to reduce the suicide rate on Guam, as we observe September as the annual “Suicide Awareness Intervention and Prevention Month”.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, suicide is the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) leading cause of death on Guam, and is  
4 widely recognized as a significant public health issue by the Guam community; and

5           **WHEREAS**, Guam's First Profile on Suicide was published in January 2009,  
6 and updated in April 2010, and were the products of the Department of Mental Health  
7 and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training Branch's three (3)-year federal Garrett  
8 Lee Smith Memorial Grant; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Guam's *Focus on Life* efforts were initiated in 2008 as a  
10 comprehensive and strategic suicide prevention effort that began with suicide data  
11 collection, surveillance, analysis and reporting; and

12           **WHEREAS**, data-driven programs, policies and practices led by the  
13 community for the community are vital for successful suicide prevention and early  
14 intervention; and

15           **WHEREAS**, from 2000 to 2010, the average suicide death rate on Guam was  
16 fourteen and eight-tenths (14.8) per one hundred thousand (100,000); whereby the  
17 average U.S. suicide death rate was ten and nine-tenths (10.9) per one hundred  
18 thousand (100,000);

19           **WHEREAS**, Guam has an average of twenty-four and seven-tenths (24.7)  
20 suicide deaths per year, a rate of one (1) suicide every two (2) weeks;

21           **WHEREAS**, Guam's 2010 rate is almost double the average U.S. suicide death  
22 rate, with ninety percent (90%) of these deaths by suicide on Guam happening among  
23 males, at an average age of thirty (30) years;

24           **WHEREAS**, one (1) in five (5) suicide deaths occurs in those under twenty-one  
25 (21) years of age; two (2) in five (5) suicide deaths occur among those twenty (20) to

1 twenty-nine (29) years of age; and about sixty percent (60%) of all suicide deaths  
2 occur in those under thirty (30) years of age; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam endures a disturbingly high rate of suicide among its youth  
4 and adult population. The Guam Police Department reported unofficially that for the  
5 months of January 1, 2007 through November 30, 2007, twenty-nine (29) deaths by  
6 suicide and sixty-one (61) attempts were investigated; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the results of the 2007 Guam High School Youth Risk Behavior  
8 Survey indicated that girls were more likely than boys to have had suicidal ideations  
9 (28.0% vs. 16.6%), a suicide plan (27.5% vs. 15.9%), or made suicide attempts  
10 (21.3% vs. 12.2%). *Chamorro* students had the highest percentage with thirty-four  
11 percent (34%) of actual attempts of suicide, followed by twenty-eight and eight-tenths  
12 percent (28.8%) of students with multiple ethnicities, and Filipino students at thirteen  
13 and six-tenths percent (13.6%); and

14 **WHEREAS**, twenty-six percent (26%) of the suicide deaths in 2008 to 2010  
15 involved alcohol consumption; ten percent (10%) involved the use of other drugs of  
16 abuse; twelve percent (12%) of suicide deaths had a history of prior suicide attempts;  
17 and ten percent (10%) had a history of mental illness; and

18 **WHEREAS**, one (1) in eight (8) of those who died of suicide from 2008 to  
19 2010 left direct evidence (suicide note) of intention to commit suicide. About one (1)  
20 in five (5) left indirect evidence of intent; and

21 **WHEREAS**, family disputes (thirty-nine percent [39%]) and personal  
22 relationships problems (thirty-five and six-tenths percent [35.6%]) were the  
23 circumstances leading to suicide or attempted suicide in 2006 to 2008; and

24 **WHEREAS**, some of the factors correlated to suicidal ideation and attempts  
25 among youth in 2007 included being hit by a boyfriend/girlfriend within the past year;  
26 being forced to have sex; sexual orientation; experiencing sadness for at least two (2)

1 weeks over the past twelve (12) months; and current alcohol and marijuana use, binge  
2 drinking, and lifetime ice use; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Focus on  
4 Life and PEACE efforts have made significant strides in raising knowledge and  
5 awareness of Guam's suicide problem; and

6 **WHEREAS**, training is provided for human services providers, criminal justice  
7 systems personnel, educators, elected leaders, youth and parents, and other community  
8 members, in evidence-based programs such as ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention  
9 Skills Training) and safeTALK (Tell, Ask, Listen and KeepSafe); and

10 **WHEREAS**, in order to address and prevent further suicide attempts and  
11 suicide deaths, Guam's people must learn to recognize and treat mental health  
12 problems early, and families on Guam must learn how to cope with stress and to be  
13 nurturing and supportive of each other; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Guam's youth, young adults and adults must learn and practice  
15 having healthy, nonviolent interpersonal relationships, and everyone must be taught to  
16 be tolerant of sexual orientation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, education and training in suicide prevention, and early  
18 intervention can be offered to young children and early adolescents by teaching them  
19 about good mental health practices, to be involved in safe activities, and to be  
20 respectful of themselves and others; and

21 **WHEREAS**, everyone must take the time to learn how to recognize the  
22 warning signs of suicide, and learn to reach out and let others know you care; now  
23 therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
25 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the Department of Mental  
26 Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training Branch Staff, and other PEACE

1 stakeholders, and support their efforts to raise awareness, and for providing training  
2 on the prevention and early intervention of suicide on Guam as they continuously  
3 work with local, regional and national partners to stop suicide on Guam; and does  
4 further extend *Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, on behalf of the people of Guam and  
5 its families, and support the Focus on Life suicide prevention and early intervention  
6 partnerships led by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, along with  
7 the members of the Governor's PEACE Council, including the representatives from:  
8 Sanctuary, Inc.; *Inafa Maolek*, Inc.; Youth for Youth LIVE, Guam; the Guam  
9 National Guard; the Department of Public Health and Social Services; the University  
10 of Guam; the Guam Police Department; Health Partners, LLC; the Guam Alternative  
11 Lifestyles Association; Guam Identified Families with Terrific Strengths – GIFTS; the  
12 Guam SDA Wellness Center; the Guam Chamber of Commerce; Sorensen Media  
13 Group; Southern Christian Academy; the Department of Youth Affairs; the  
14 Department of Education and the Head Start Program; the Mayors Council of Guam;  
15 the Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services; the Guam Memorial  
16 Hospital Authority; and the U.S. District Court of Guam – U.S. Probation Office; and  
17 be it further

18       **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,  
19 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to all  
20 members of the Governor's PEACE Council: Sanctuary, Inc.; *Inafa Maolek*, Inc.;  
21 Youth for Youth LIVE, Guam; Life Works Guam; the Department of Public Health  
22 and Social Services; the American Association of Suicidology; the American  
23 Foundation for Suicide Prevention; the Glendon Association; the National Suicide  
24 Prevention Lifeline; the United States Department of Health and Human Services –  
25 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Suicide Prevention

- 1 Action Network, and the Suicide Prevention Resource Center; and to the Honorable
- 2 Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2011.**

  
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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**  
Speaker

  
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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary