

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

Resolution No. 217-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

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

Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association of Guam and the Palauan community on the auspicious occasion of the Seventeenth (17th) Year Anniversary Celebration of the establishment of the Republic of Palau; and to further commending them in recognition and commemoration of their Independence, and for their invaluable contributions to Guam and its people.

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:***
3 **WHEREAS,** the people of Palau and the people of Guam share a history
4 spanning more than four (4) millennia; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Palauans first greeted the British traders and government officials
2 who were prominent visitors in the eighteenth (18th) century, followed by the
3 expanding Spanish influence of the nineteenth (19th) century. After the serious
4 confrontations in Micronesia between Spain and Germany, war was averted when
5 Pope Leo XIII arbitrated the conflict and issued the Protocol of Rome in 1885 that
6 reaffirmed Spanish sovereignty in Micronesia, but with the rights to do business and
7 to enter ports to Germany. Financially exhausted with administering the colonies in
8 Micronesia, Spain sold the islands to Germany in 1899 for \$4.2 Million Dollars. The
9 German eagle prevailed, taking all the island groups, except for Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the control of Micronesia then passed to Japan in 1914 by virtue
11 of the Japanese monitoring of German warships during World War I, and the islands
12 were legally granted to Japan by the League of Nations as a mandate in 1920 at the
13 Paris Peace Conference. After the defeat of Japan in World War II, and the historic
14 battles of Peleliu and Angaur of September 1944 that took the lives of more than two
15 thousand (2,000) Americans and ten thousand (10,000) Japanese, the United States
16 gained control of what was then called the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands
17 through the United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the
18 Pacific Islands, with Palau administered as one (1) of the three (3) island groups' six
19 (6) districts; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after forty-seven (47) years as part of the U.N. Trust Territory of
21 the Pacific Islands under a U.S. administration, Palau's leaders opted for the
22 separation from the other island areas in a special referendum in 1978, and on July 9,
23 1980, the Palau Constitution was ratified, and its first constitutional elections were
24 held. The islands then became known as the Republic of Palau in 1981; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Palau adopted self- government by way of its Constitution and the
2 Compact of Free Association with the United States, which was approved in 1993
3 after eight (8) referendums and amendments to the Palau Constitution; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in May 1994, the United Nations Trusteeship Council issued a
5 Resolution requesting the Government of the United States, in consultation with the
6 Government of Palau, to agree on a date on or about October 1, 1994 for the full entry
7 into force of the Compact of Free Association, and on July 1994, the President of the
8 United States, the Honorable William Clinton, reaffirmed October 1, 1994 as the
9 effective date of the Compact, provided that all legal challenges to the Compact had
10 been resolved and they had been so resolved; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau is an island nation in the northern Pacific
12 Ocean, located east of the Philippines, and perched on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge. The
13 westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands, Palau consists of twenty (20) large islands
14 and five hundred sixty-six (566) smaller islands, and it is one of the world's youngest
15 and least populated nations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Koror, or "Oreor", the largest town in Palau, is where seventy
17 percent (70%) of the Republic's population live, and is the place that hosts most
18 annual festivities and special events for the island nation; and it was the site of the
19 Capital from the time of its Independence in 1994 to 2006, when Melekeok became
20 the new Capital; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau joined the United Nations as its one
22 hundred eighty-fifth (185th) member and took its seat in the U.N. in December 1994;
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, the splendor of Palau's tropical wonder, with emerald green
25 islands stretching more than four hundred (400) spectacular miles across pristine azure
26 waters, is a Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising majestically from the sea,

1 nourished by ocean currents and sculpted by nature and time, creating the stunning,
2 world-famous Rock Islands of Palau, a marvel of nature; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Palau was named as the number one (1) Underwater Wonder of
4 the World by Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research
5 (CEDAM) International, an organization of divers, marine scientists and
6 conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral reefs, blue holes, WWII
7 wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels, and over sixty (60) vertical drop-offs are found in
8 Palau, where three (3) major ocean currents meet to create an environment of
9 abundance and an enormous variety of marine life; the waters surrounding the Rock
10 Islands literally teem with over one thousand five hundred (1,500) varieties of reef and
11 pelagic fish, and more than four (4) times the number of coral species found in the
12 Caribbean; and

13 **WHEREAS**, this small nation, a world leader in the global struggle to save our
14 planet, stands tall among the nations setting new standards for environmental
15 stewardship and nature conservancy, which has contributed enormously towards the
16 progress of the people of Palau. The traditional leadership, the National Congress, and
17 President Johnson Toribiong, have worked together to move towards developing a
18 thriving and prosperous tourism industry, and a vibrant future based on cultural
19 integrity and the protection of its natural resources; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Palau's wealth is not just found in its natural beauty, but also in a
21 blessing of human resources, a well-educated and highly talented people, an
22 integration of modern technology and developed techniques to weave these sources of
23 natural and human wealth together to promote, protect and conserve the most
24 important resource of all: the traditions, culture, and history of a free and independent
25 people, the nation of the Republic of Palau; and

1 **WHEREAS**, soon after World War II, the diversity of peoples from Palau
2 brought their culture of hard work and respect for family and traditions to Guam, their
3 home away from home; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2011, the Republic of Palau celebrated its
5 Seventeenth (17th) Year of Independence, commemorating the establishment of its
6 statehood, followed by the Palauan community celebration on Guam on October 8,
7 2011; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palau Community Association of Guam are
9 proud to be strong supporters of Guam, and the general island community, by
10 contributing to various educational, sports and community charities over the past
11 several years; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan community have continued to enrich
13 our proud tradition of diversity, and to endow our island of Guam with their unique
14 and collective strength; now therefore, be it

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
16 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
17 of Guam, congratulate the Palau Community Association of Guam, and the people of
18 the Republic of Palau, on the commemoration of the Seventeenth (17th) Independence
19 Day celebration; and does further extend a sincere *Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse*
20 to our community of Palauans on Guam for the positive contributions they have made
21 for the betterment of our island community; and be it further

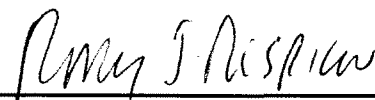
22 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
23 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
24 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Johnson Toribiong, President of
25 the Republic of Palau; to the Council of Chiefs; to the Palau Community Association

- 1 of Guam; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the U.S.
2 Congress; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

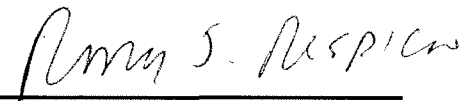
**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 7TH DAY OF
OCTOBER 2011.**



BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



RORY J. RESPICIO
Acting Legislative Secretary