

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 359-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
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Aline A.Yamashita, Ph.D.
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Relative to recognizing and congratulating Mr. Richard K. Lai on being named the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam Branch “2012 Small Business Person of the Year”; and to further commending him for his many outstanding accomplishments in serving the community of Guam.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Richard K. Lai moved to Guam from Hong Kong at the age
4 of sixteen (16) years old. He was an excellent student in high school, with a 3.93
5 grade point average; and he graduated with honors from the University of
6 Washington, where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering; and

1 **WHEREAS**, upon graduating from the University of Washington, Richard was
2 employed by IBM and General Dynamic in San Diego, California, before returning to
3 Guam in 1987 to assist with the family business; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Richard began working in his mother’s restaurant, “Shirley’s
5 Coffee Shop”, first learning the basics in the kitchen and then slowly growing the
6 restaurant to the household name it is today; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Lai was instrumental in leading the growth of “Shirley’s”
8 restaurant from just one (1) small coffee shop with only four (4) employees to three
9 (3) different restaurant locations on Guam and a restaurant in Saipan, and staffed with
10 over two hundred (200) employees; as well as overseeing the growth of the “Samurai
11 Teppenyaki Japanese Restaurant” as President of Wing On Corporation; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Richard was able to expand “Shirley’s Coffee Shop” into a full,
13 family-style restaurant with over two hundred (200) delicious items on the menu, up
14 from the mere twenty (20) menu items when “Shirley’s” first opened in the early
15 1980s; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Lai has demonstrated his innovativeness as a business owner
17 by capitalizing on Guam’s love for *Spam* and teaming up with the Hormel Company
18 in Minnesota to create *Hot and Spicy Spam*. The unique product featured “Shirley’s”
19 fried rice recipe on the can and became a success throughout the Asian region,
20 bringing pride to the island of Guam; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Richard’s innovativeness has also shown through his response to
22 health conscious consumers by offering them healthier food items, such as brown rice,
23 egg whites and vegetarian meals; and launching a campaign to promote oatmeal and
24 its health benefits on the “Shirley’s” menu; and

1 **WHEREAS**, from 1992 to 1997, Richard opened and operated one of Guam's
2 biggest and most popular beach bars in the heart of *Tumon*, with seating for about one
3 thousand (1,000) people, and servicing many military personnel; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2006, Mr. Lai decided to diversify his business by opening the
5 "Samurai Teppenyaki Japanese Restaurant" in *Tumon* which employs over sixty (60)
6 people and caters to a mix of clientele, including local residents, military personnel
7 and tourists; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Richard Lai has been an exemplary member of the community,
9 serving in the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam (CCCG) as an elected board
10 member, from 2004 to the present; and as the Secretary General on the CCCG Board
11 of Directors, from 2008 to the present. He had also served on the Board of Directors
12 of the Guam Visitors Bureau, from 2002 to 2010; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Lai has made a great impact on the soccer community of
14 Guam, serving as the President of the Guam Football Association since 2001. He has
15 led the way in increasing the membership of the Guam Football Association to over
16 two thousand five hundred (2,500) active and devoted members; and

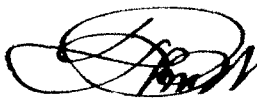
17 **WHEREAS**, Richard has been instrumental in securing over Four Million
18 Dollars (\$4,000,000) to construct and equip football facilities on over twenty (20)
19 acres of land, with seventy-five percent (75%) of the funding from international
20 grants, and twenty-five percent (25%) of the funding from matching grants with the
21 local government, allowing coaches and administrative staff to be employed and
22 national teams to travel abroad for international competitions; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Richard K. Lai also serves in different capacities on the Asian
24 Football Confederation (AFC), the East Asian Football Federation (EAFF), and the
25 Federation of International Football Association (FIFA), all while overseeing his
26 successful businesses; now therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
2 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend Mr. Richard K. Lai on being
3 named the U.S. Small Business Administration Guam Branch “2012 Small Business
4 Person of the Year”; and does further extend a warm *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os*
5 *Ma'åse'* to him for his hard work and dedication to the Guam community; and be it
6 further

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
8 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr.
9 Richard K. Lai, President of Wing On Corporation; and to the Honorable Edward J.B.
10 Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 19TH DAY OF MARCH 2012.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary