

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

Resolution No. 365-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

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.
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
M. Silva Taijeron
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to bringing further awareness to shark conservation; to supporting the enactment of protective legislation; to commending regional leaders for their commitment and the implementation of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary encompassing the waters of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam; and to commend and congratulate the students and staff of George Washington High School and Simon Sanchez High School for their Shark Advocacy.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, according to fossil records, sharks have played an important role
4 in the balance of our oceans' ecosystem for about four hundred fifty (450) million
5 years; and

6 **WHEREAS**, sharks grow very slowly and take a long time to reach sexual
7 maturity – twenty (20) years or more in some species. When they do reproduce, they
8 produce very few offspring compared to other bony fish species; and

9 **WHEREAS**, each year, millions of sharks die after being caught on longlines
10 ranging in length from one mile to over one hundred (100) miles with fish bait
11 intended to catch tuna and swordfish; and

12 **WHEREAS**, due to their slow rate of growth, shark populations cannot sustain
13 current slaughter rates; and

14 **WHEREAS**, declining shark populations will have serious consequences for
15 ocean ecosystems because they are vital to the food chain and their predatory nature
16 helps to keep populations of their fish prey in check; and

17 **WHEREAS**, without sharks preserving a healthy balance, coral reefs and the
18 entire marine environment risk immense permanent damage; and

19 **WHEREAS**, through Public Law 31-10 and the recent unanimous passage of
20 Bill No. 405-31 (COR), *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* has taken
21 significant steps to thwart the pernicious practice of shark overfishing; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* supports Hawaii's
23 passage of SB 2169 to prohibit the sale, possession or distribution of shark fins and fin
24 products; and further supports the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands'
25 passage of H.B. 17-94; and

1 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** supports President
2 Barack Obama signing the Shark Conservation Act into law and further supports the
3 Republic of Palau for creating the world's first shark sanctuary; and

4 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** commends and
5 congratulates former President Jurelang Zedkaia for passing strong legislation to
6 create the Marshall Islands National Shark Sanctuary (MINSS) and further commends
7 President Christopher Loeak for implementing enforcement; and

8 **WHEREAS,** the MINSS is 768,547 square miles, an area four times the
9 landmass of California, and the strong legislation prohibits the commercial fishing of
10 sharks, the sale of sharks, a ban on certain longline fishing gear used to target sharks,
11 and stringent fines between \$25,000 and \$200,000 for anyone found to be fishing for
12 sharks or in possession of sharks; and

13 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** supports the Palau
14 Shark Sanctuary created in 2009 by President Johnson Toribiong that protects sharks
15 in an area roughly the size of France from illegal poachers and commercial fishing of
16 sharks; and

17 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** recognizes and
18 congratulates the presidents and governors attending the 15th Micronesian Chief
19 Executive Summit for agreeing to a Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary
20 encompassing the waters of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of
21 Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam; and

22 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** supports the
23 implementation of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary; and

24 **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*** recognizes and
25 congratulates the Simon Sanchez Sharks for their unyielding advocacy in support of
26 shark conservation; and

1 **WHEREAS,** *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes and
2 congratulates the George Washington Geckos for their unyielding advocacy in support
3 of shark conservation; and now therefore, be it

4 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
5 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
6 of Guam, recognize and honor former President Jurelang Zedkaia for the successful
7 creation of the Marshall Islands National Shark Sanctuary; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
9 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
10 of Guam, recognize and honor President Christopher Loeak for the successful
11 implementation of the Marshall Islands National Shark Sanctuary; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
13 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
14 of Guam, recognize and honor President Johnson Toribiong for declaring and
15 implementing the Palau Shark Sanctuary; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
17 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
18 of Guam, recognize and honor Governor Benigno Fitial for signing the Northern
19 Mariana Islands Shark Fin Ban into law; and be it further

20 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
21 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
22 of Guam, recognize and honor Governor Eddie Calvo for signing the Guam Shark Fin
23 Ban into law; and be it further

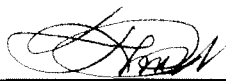
24 **RESOLVED,** that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
25 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
26 of Guam, extend a most sincere *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the Simon

1 Sanchez Sharks, and the staff and student body of Simon Sanchez High School for
2 their unyielding advocacy in support of shark conservation; and be it further

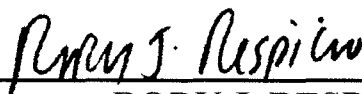
3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
5 of Guam, extend a most sincere *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the George
6 Washington Geckos, and the staff and student body of George Washington High
7 School for their unyielding advocacy in support of shark conservation; and be it
8 further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Committee on Rules certify, and the
10 Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, to former President Jurelang
11 Zedkaia; to President Christopher Loeak; to President Johnson Toribiong; to Governor
12 Benigno Fitial; to the Simon Sanchez High School Sharks; to the George Washington
13 High School Geckos; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren*
14 *Guåhan*.

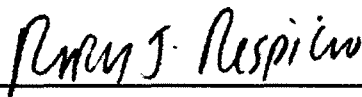
**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 28TH AY OF
MARCH 2012.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



RORY J. RESPICIO
Acting Legislative Secretary