

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

Resolution No. 367-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

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Relative to recognizing and commending the staff and management of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) for its dedicated work in leading the efforts towards safeguarding our island's natural resources during the observance of April 2012 as "Earth Month"; April 16 to 22, 2012, as "Earth Week"; and April 22, 2012, as "Earth Day", with the theme, "Go Green! Recycle and Conserve the Environment"

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***
3 **WHEREAS,** since the first "Earth Day" was celebrated forty-two (42) years
4 ago, understanding and protecting our planet's climate and environment have become

1 among our greatest challenges because our natural resources will always be important
2 to us, our economy, our health, and our safety; and a protected and safe island is
3 critical to the well-being of our community and the success of future generations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the ability of Guam's people to live healthy lives in harmony with
5 nature, as well as the state of our environment, are critical and necessary components
6 for the success and health of our island's economy; and as our planet finds itself
7 moving ever closer to great environmental danger, the people of Guam have begun to
8 take the initiative and make progress toward that moment in history when a
9 prosperous, clean-energy driven, and healthy economy for our future will become a
10 reality; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), in
12 conjunction with the Guam Environmental Education Committee, and with the
13 commitments of assistance from many public, private, and non-profit organizations,
14 strives daily to protect and conserve Guam's natural environment, to include ensuring
15 that our island's air, land, and water are safeguarded from degradation; and

16 **WHEREAS**, each "Earth Month", "Earth Week", and "Earth Day", GEPA
17 takes the opportunity to encourage corporations and governments to collaborate and
18 help create an island-wide green economy on Guam that will complement and work in
19 synergy with a planet-wide green economy; and for this year, during the
20 commemoration of the month of April 2012, as "Earth Month", the week of April 16
21 to 22, 2012, as "Earth Week", and the observance of "Earth Day 2012", to be
22 celebrated on Sunday, April 22, 2012, the focus will be on the theme, "Go Green!
23 Recycle and Conserve the Environment"; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the recognition and celebration of "Earth Day" can be an
25 important milestone in our progress toward achieving climate and energy efficiency,
26 generating renewable energy, and creating green jobs, as Guam joins the billions of

1 people in one hundred ninety (190) countries taking action on this important day for
2 the benefit of their communities, and

3 **WHEREAS**, in order to raise environmental awareness during “Earth Day
4 2012,” Guam will organize several events, including the worldwide observation of
5 “Earth Hour”, during which homeowners and businesses are encouraged to shut off
6 their electricity for an hour to raise awareness of the conservation of power; and

7 **WHEREAS**, other “Earth Day/Earth Week” events include a number of
8 sponsors and various activities in farming, and the conservation of the environment,
9 including:

- 10 a. Natural farming and easy composting offered by the University of Guam
11 (UOG) and the Guam Department of Agriculture (DOAg) to help
12 homeowners save money by growing their own vegetables; and save
13 money on trash disposal by composting vegetable clippings, coffee
14 grounds, and other biodegradable products;
- 15 b. The eco-friendly Easter Basket workshop, sponsored by the National
16 Park Service (NPS), to help students make sustainable baskets from local
17 materials;
- 18 c. The “Hunting is My Nature Pig Derby and Pork in the Park Cook-Off”
19 presented by the Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of
20 Statistics and Plans and the Guam DOAg to help reduce invasive pigs
21 that cause erosion and destroy trees, and promote hunting and eating
22 local foods;
- 23 d. The “Fish and Vegetable Cook-Off” sponsored by the Guam Community
24 College (GCC) and UOG, to promote the production and consumption of
25 locally-grown foods;

- e. The UOG and DOAg assistance to help residents use native trees to reduce their cooling costs and enhance their properties; and
- f. The “Shredding Paper for Nature Drive,” sponsored by iRecycle, Coast 360 and the Farmers Co-op, to help residents use resources, such as paper, to promote local farming and the composting process; and

WHEREAS, “Earth Day/Earth Week” events that feature water and environmental activities include:

- a. The “Get to Know Your Drinking Water” *Tumon* Bay Aquifer Tour;
- b. The “Natural Wonder of Beach Seeps” sponsored by the Naval Base Guam Environmental Office, to give residents an in-depth view of Guam’s drinking water;
- c. The “Kids Freshwater Fishing Derby” sponsored by the Guam DOAg, to help promote fishing practices, with visits to areas such as the *Masso* Reservoir Nature Area; and
- d. The “Get to Know Nature” hikes offered by the National Park Service (NPS) to help residents see the *Asan* watershed first hand, and understand the importance of rivers and streams, and how we can protect them; and

WHEREAS, “Earth Day” and “Earth Week” events that promote awareness include:

- a. The Island Sustainability Conference, sponsored by UOG, to promote more sustainable living in our island community;
- b. The Right Tree for the Right Place workshop, sponsored by the NPS;
- c. The Youthfest and Nature Expo, sponsored by GEPA and Sanctuary, that honors students participating in environmental works, and offers free family-friendly educational activities; and

1 d. The Youth Environmental Conference, sponsored by Underwater World,
2 to help high school students discuss and think critically about the
3 environmental issues affecting Guam's natural resources; and

4 **WHEREAS**, these events promote stewardship of the environment to the
5 residents and the business community of Guam through awareness, teaching, and the
6 practice of sustainability, and the people of Guam are highly encouraged to actively
7 participate in these events during the observance of April 2012 as "Earth Month"; the
8 week of April 16 to 22, 2012, as "Earth Week"; and Sunday, April 22, 2012, as "Earth
9 Day", to be celebrated worldwide; now therefore, be it

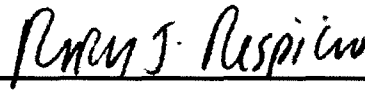
10 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
11 on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize and commend
12 the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), and all businesses, government
13 entities, schools and individuals that continue to endeavor to bring awareness to the
14 community about the importance of protecting our environment; and does further
15 extend *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the following *Guåhan* "Earth Day
16 2012" partners: the Guam Environmental Protection Agency; the University of Guam
17 (Centers for Sustainability, WPCRI, Marine Lab, Extension, Sea Lab); the Guam
18 Department of Education (George Washington HS Marine Mania, Simon Sanchez HS
19 Sharks MADE, JFK HS, *Merizo* Elementary); the Bureau of Statistics and Plans,
20 Guam Coastal Management Program; the Guam Department of Agriculture (Division
21 of Aquatics and Wildlife, Forestry); the Guam Community College; the National Park
22 Service; the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Naval
23 Base, Guam; the Guam Historic Preservation Trust; Guam Public Radio KPRG 89.3
24 FM; the Island Beautification Task Force; Sanctuary Inc.; I*Recycle; the Recycling
25 Association of Guam; Payless Supermarkets; Coast 360; Underwater World; the
26 Guam Waterworks Authority; and the Guam Power Authority; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
2 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that
3 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Robert Perron, Chairman, Guam
4 Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors; to Eric M. Palacios, Acting
5 Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency; and to the Honorable
6 Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

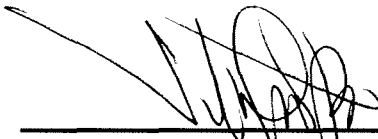
**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 20TH DAY
APRIL 2012.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary