

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

**Resolution No. 383-31 (LS)**

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz  
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  
R. J. Respicio  
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.  
M. Silva Taijeron  
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

**Relative to recognizing and commending the front line staff of all the government of Guam agencies, and private nonprofit organizations, who work tirelessly to assist and treat the victims of child abuse and neglect, and also work towards its prevention to make Guam safer; and to further extending *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse* to them for their continued commitment to reducing the incidences of child abuse on Guam, and for bringing attention to, and promoting the knowledge and awareness of, the issue of child abuse and neglect, and especially of child sexual assault on Guam.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect, including child sexual assault, are social  
4   problems that contribute to significant personal challenges for the victims, and to the  
5   decay of our families and communities as strong, viable units; and

6           **WHEREAS**, there were one thousand eight hundred ninety-seven (1,897)  
7   reports of child abuse and neglect cases on Guam affecting two thousand five hundred  
8   twelve (2,512) children, an increase from 2011 of nearly forty percent (40%); and

9           **WHEREAS**, as well, there were over three thousand (3,000) other reports of  
10   referrals to the Department of Public Health and Social Services' Child Protective  
11   Services, signaling an urgent call for help in the protection of Guam's children, youth  
12   and families; and

13          **WHEREAS**, the incidences of child abuse and neglect often result in lifelong  
14   challenges to the victims, thwarting their personal development and abilities to be  
15   productive citizens; and

16          **WHEREAS**, the victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely to be at risk  
17   for having depression and other mental illnesses; for substance abuse; to struggle to  
18   sustain educational and work activities; and to maintain healthy interpersonal  
19   relationships; and

20          **WHEREAS**, the hundreds of victims each year who are cases of substantiated  
21   abuse and neglect also impact thousands more individuals who they live and work  
22   with, and who are their family, friends and neighbors; and

23          **WHEREAS**, the community response to the tragedy of child abuse and neglect  
24   rests with our families, communities, and all of our agencies, both private and  
25   governmental; and

1       **WHEREAS**, there is a core group of individuals in these agencies who are on  
2 the front lines ready and willing to assist twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days  
3 a week, including holidays, to protect and support victims of child abuse and neglect;  
4 and

5       **WHEREAS**, these individuals and agencies should be acknowledged for their  
6 selfless dedication and commitment to our children, youth and families; now  
7 therefore, be it

8       **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
9 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the Department of Mental  
10 Health and Substance Abuse; the Department of Public Health and Social Services;  
11 the Department of Youth Affairs; the Guam Police Department; the Office of the  
12 Attorney General; the Superior Court of Guam; Sanctuary, Incorporated; Catholic  
13 Social Service; Victims Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and the Guam Coalition  
14 Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence's (GCASAFV); and does further support  
15 them in their efforts to increase the awareness and the strategies to prevent child abuse  
16 and neglect on Guam, as they continuously work in collaboration with public and  
17 private entities to significantly reduce the incidences of this destructive social ill; and  
18 be it further

19       **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,  
20 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the  
21 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; to the Department of Public  
22 Health and Social Services; to the Department of Youth Affairs; to the Guam Police  
23 Department; to the Office of the Attorney General; to the Superior Court of Guam; to  
24 Sanctuary, Incorporated; to Catholic Social Service; to Victims Advocates Reaching  
25 Out (VARO); to the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence  
26 (GCASAFV); and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2012.**



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



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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
Legislative Secretary