

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

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Resolution No. 19-31(COR)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio

B.J.F. Cruz

Relative to acknowledging award-winning filmmaker Rob Stewart for his advocacy in providing positive attention for sharks and exposing the environmental and over-fishing realities faced by sharks; for debunking shark stereotypes; for educating the public on these issues; for building support for their survival, and for creating the epic, world-renowned documentary, *Sharkwater*."

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

WHEREAS, Rob Stewart's career as an award-winning filmmaker and shark advocate began at the age of thirteen (13) when he became interested in photographing the beautiful underwater world; and

WHEREAS, Stewart eventually became a SCUBA instructor, prior to earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, and worked as chief photographer for the Canadian Wildlife Federation's magazines, winning awards as a freelance photojournalist, leading expeditions to remote areas of the world and logging thousands of hours under water, using the latest re-breather and camera technologies; and

WHEREAS, Stewart's award winning library of underwater photography has been sought out by well-respected media companies

1 around the world, including BBC Wildlife, Discovery Channel, ABC, Asian
2 Diver, Entertainment Tonight, and National Geographic Magazine; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during an assignment to photograph sharks in the
4 Galapagos Islands, Stewart discovered illegal longlining taking place and
5 the indiscriminate killing of sharks within the area's marine preserve; and

6 **WHEREAS**, he began promoting shark awareness through print
7 campaigns, but received little response from the public, so he began a film
8 project in order to bring people closer to sharks, and at the age of twenty-
9 two (22), Stewart left his still photography career behind and embarked on
10 a remarkable four year journey through fifteen (15) different countries to
11 create what eventually became his epic documentary, *Sharkwater*, which
12 was released in 2006; and

13 **WHEREAS**, *Sharkwater* exposes the process of shark finning, which
14 involves the catching of sharks to cut off their fins, which are considered a
15 delicacy in some cultures, the result of the "finning" leaving the shark
16 helpless because it is unable to swim, and after the animals are thrown
17 back into the ocean they die; and

18 **WHEREAS**, this incredible documentary features corruption,
19 espionage, battles with shark poachers in Guatemala that result in
20 ramming by pirate boats, gunboat chases, mafia espionage, corrupt court
21 systems and attempted murder charges; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *Sharkwater* exposes the reasons that these magnificent
23 predators have become prey, and despite surviving millions of years
24 throughout earth's history of mass extinctions, these animals could easily
25 become extinct in a few years due to human greed; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the brutality of shark finning, the indiscriminate killing of
2 any shark regardless of age, size, or species, and the use of longlines to
3 harvest sharks in fishing operations, have all contributed to massive losses
4 in shark populations worldwide; and

5 **WHEREAS**, *Sharkwater* has brought to the forefront of educational
6 discussion the increase in shark finning over the past decade due to
7 increased demand for the highly sought-after fins, improved fishing
8 technology, and improved market economics, leading to estimates that 100
9 million sharks are killed for their fins annually; and

10 **WHEREAS**, *Sharkwater* exposes shark finning as unsustainable fishing
11 because the massive quantity of sharks harvested and indiscriminate
12 selection depletes shark populations faster than their reproductive abilities
13 can replenish populations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, *Sharkwater* has been hugely successful, premiering in the
15 Toronto Film Festival and winning a “Canada’s Top Ten” award and
16 became the most award winning documentary of 2007, winning over 30
17 awards at the most prestigious film festivals around the world; and

18 **WHEREAS**, The film has done much to debunk the stereotype that
19 sharks are mindless eating machines, and as a result of *Sharkwater*, new
20 educational awareness programs have been established worldwide to
21 enlighten people of the invaluable contributions of the shark to our global
22 ocean ecosystem; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Stewart continues his shark advocacy and continues to
24 encourage global communities to learn that we must promote global
25 sustainable use of the environment and oceans in order to reverse the
26 centuries-old trend of gratuitous destruction; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Stewart's commitment and tireless efforts toward shark
2 advocacy and building support for shark survival has promoted the roles
3 of environmental preservation and ocean conservation to new levels; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
6 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
7 people of Guam, recognize, congratulate and offer its strong endorsement
8 for the extraordinarily high standards set by Rob Stewart in his global
9 shark advocacy and ocean conservations efforts that seek to expose the
10 environmental and over-fishing realities faced by sharks; for his active role
11 in debunking shark stereotypes; for his assistance in educating the public
12 on these issues; for building support for their survival, and for creating the
13 epic, world-renowned documentary, *Sharkwater*; and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee on
15 Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* certify and the
16 Legislative Secretary attest the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same
17 be thereafter transmitted to filmmaker Rob Stewart; to shark preservation
18 advocacy organization "Shark Savers," on which Stewart sits as a member
19 of its board; and to 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 DAY OF JANUARY, 2011.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary