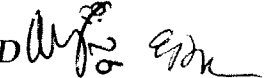


I MINA TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

2011 MAR 22 AM

Resolution No. 54-31 (C.R.)

Introduced by:

A. A. Yamashita, PhD 

Relative to commending and acknowledging those affected by autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children; and to commending the Autism Community Together (ACT) for their efforts to promote autism awareness; and in the observance of the month of April 2011 as "*Autism Awareness Month*."

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

WHEREAS, autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three (3) years of a person's life and affects their ability to communicate and interact with others;

WHEREAS, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees;

WHEREAS, autism is four (4) times more prevalent in boys than girls and knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries;

WHEREAS, there is no known single cause for autism, but increased awareness and funding can help families today;

WHEREAS, in December 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued their autism prevalence report and concluded that the prevalence of autism had risen to one (1) in every one hundred ten (110) births in the United States, and to almost one (1) in seventy (70) boys;

WHEREAS, thirteen million (13,000,000) American families are now living

1 with the effects of autism spectrum disorder, and the Autism Society currently
2 estimates that the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism ranges from \$3.5
3 million to \$5 million;

4 **WHEREAS**, the United States faces almost \$90 billion annually in costs for
5 autism; and together with appropriate education and intervention, are vital to
6 the future growth and development of individuals with autism;

7 **WHEREAS**, through the increased awareness, and the services available
8 to individuals with autism, the lives of our friends with autism can be made
9 easier, while those without autism can expand their understanding of the needs
10 and challenges that individuals with autism are experiencing;

11 **WHEREAS**, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals have
12 dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights,
13 humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and in
14 order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the
15 Autism Society has been celebrating "National Autism Awareness Month" since
16 the 1970s in the United States, recognizing the month of April as a time of special
17 opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism
18 community;

19 **WHEREAS**, a proclamation will be signed declaring April 2011 as *Autism*
20 *Awareness Month*, when every resident of Guam is invited to participate in
21 activities that educate and promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders that
22 affect members of our community and their families;

23 **WHEREAS**, Autism Community Together (ACT), formed in January 2004,
24 is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals
25 and the general public about autism and its effects; and, various activities are
26 being coordinated throughout the month of April 2011 to further these goals,
27 including a family day of bowling at Central Lanes in Tamuning; a display and

1 fair at the Agana Shopping Center; a trolley ride from Agana Shopping Center in
2 Hagåtña to the Micronesia Mall in Dededo to include a luncheon at the ASC food
3 court; and a family potluck at the Northern Region Pool Complex in Dededo;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
6 *Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* and the
7 people of Guam commend and acknowledge those affected by autism, and their
8 families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children
9 and others living with autism, as well as ACT for their efforts to promote autism
10 awareness, and in the observance of the month of April 2011 as "Autism
11 Awareness Month"; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
13 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that
14 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, President,
15 Autism Community Together; to Ms. Lourdes A. Mesa, Vice-President, Autism
16 Community Together; to Ms. Jennifer Rabago, Secretary, Rindraty Celes-
17 Limtiaco, Treasurer and Co-founder, Autism Community Together; and to the
18 Honorable 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
_____ 2011.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson,
Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary