

MINA'TRENTAI UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 18131(5)

Introduced by:

Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

Relative to extending a sincere gratitude, *Un Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase'*, and special recognition to the Family Violence Awareness Month Task Force members, Guam's practitioners, and numerous advocates who have tirelessly over the years provided support to the victims of family violence and have also increase community awareness on the reduction and prevention of family violence; in commemorating October 2011 as "Family Violence Awareness Month"; and further encouraging the people of Guam to actively unite in the elimination of family violence which negatively impact the lives of many of Guam's children and families.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

1 WHEREAS, it has been proven that family violence can take numerous forms, i.e.
2 physical, sexual, emotional or verbal, directed against a person who is the abuser's intimate
3 partner, relative or friend, and could affect any person regardless of age, sexual orientation,
4 physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, culture, education, religion or economic status;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, research over the years have highlighted that children in homes where
7 abuse among adults occurs, are often neglected at a rate much higher than the national
8 average, and studies further show that children from violent homes have a notably higher
9 risk of alcohol or drug abuse and juvenile delinquency; with results at a rate of six (6) times
10 more likely to commit suicide, twenty-four (24) times more likely to commit sexual assault
11 crimes, and fifty (50) times more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol; thus stressing that
12 children from abusive homes typically carry these terrible experiences of violence with
13 them into adulthood, and affecting even their next generation; and

1 **WHEREAS**, recent statistics gathered through the Guam Police Department exhibit
2 an alarming rate of violence in homes on Guam, with family violence-related offenses of
3 two hundred four (204) cases of misdemeanor and felony family violence combined, five
4 (5) cases of misdemeanor sexual assault, fifty-two (52) cases of felony sexual assault with
5 arrest of abuse and neglect offenses against family and children, and two (2) deaths as a
6 result of family violence; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Superior Court of Guam, Courts and Ministerial Division, in the
8 previous years recorded four hundred thirty-two (432) combined cases of felony and
9 misdemeanor family violence, one hundred twenty-seven (127) combined cases of felony
10 and misdemeanor criminal sexual conduct, and eighty-three (83) protection orders filed; in
11 addition, the Probation Services Division reported eight hundred ninety nine (899) new
12 family violence, sexual assault and child abuse cases, with more than eight hundred eighty-
13 three (883) defendants under supervision by the end of 2010; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Alee Shelter, Erica's House, the Public Defender Service Corporation
15 and the Attorney General's Office have provided eight hundred twenty-two (822) victims
16 with direct services, and have facilitated additional referrals to other service providers; and

17 **WHEREAS**, family violence is often ignored and tolerated by our society, and many
18 victims feel isolated, ashamed, and even responsible for the abuse, often blaming
19 themselves; with many men and women being reluctant to admit to the incidence of family
20 violence and are further reluctant to seek help beyond their families, leading some experts
21 to believe that the actual prevalence of family violence is much higher than the statistics
22 indicate; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP VAW
24 subgrantees, government and non-government organizations, faith-based organizations,
25 and other community partners have joined forces to directly and collectively confront this
26 family violence crises. These community organizations include the following: Alee Shelter -
27 - Catholic Social Service, Andersen Family Support Services -- Fleet and Family Support

1 Services; the Archdiocese of Hagatna; the Office of the Attorney General -- Crime Victim
2 Response Unit; the Department of Corrections – Parole Division/Training; the Department
3 of Education; the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Healing Hearts
4 Crisis Center; the Department of Public Health and Social Services; the Department of
5 Youth Affairs; Erica’s House – Visitation Center; the Governor’s Community Outreach --
6 Federal Programs Office; the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; I Liheslaturan
7 Guahan; the Guam Police Department – Victim Assistance Unit; Guma’Mami, Inc.;
8 Inafa’Maolek; the Mayor’s Council of Guam; Guam’s Media; Mothers Against Drunk
9 Driving (MADD); the Public Defender Service Corporation; the Guam Judiciary – the
10 Superior Court of Guam Client Services and Family Counseling Division, the Judicial
11 Council, and the Superior Court of Guam Probation and Marshals Divisions; Sanctuary,
12 Inc.; the University of Guam; and the Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and

13 **WHEREAS**, the incredible effort, compassion, and untiring dedication of these
14 volunteers, professionals, and organizations should be so recognized and applauded; now
15 therefore be it

16 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Trentai Uno na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby on behalf of
17 the people of Guam, recognize and commend the members of the “Family Violence
18 Awareness Month” Task Force, and Guam’s practitioners and advocates, for their efforts in
19 helping to raise awareness, and for their support of the victims of family violence, on the
20 observance of the month of October 2011 as the “Family Violence Awareness Month”; and
21 does extend much gratitude, and *Un Dangkolo’ Na Si Yu’os Ma’ase’*, to these individuals
22 and organizations for the significant contributions they have made, and continue to make,
23 to reduce the crime of family violence on Guam; and further encourages the people of
24 Guam to positively contribute toward the elimination of family violence altogether; and be
25 it further

26 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to
27 the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members of

- 1 the 2011 Family Violence Awareness Month Task Force; and to the Honorable Edward J. B.
- 2 Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNO NA LIHESLATURAN*
GUÅHAN ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2011.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Senator and Legislative Secretary