

I MINA' TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN  
2011 (FIRST) REGULAR SESSION

Resolution No. 217-31 (cor)

Introduced By:

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2011 OCT - 3 PM 3:26

**Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association of Guam and the Palauan Community in recognition and commemoration of their Independence on the auspicious occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of the Establishment of the Republic of Belau.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'**

**TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:**

**WHEREAS**, the people of Palau and the people of Guam share a history spanning more than four millennia; and

**WHEREAS**, Palauans first greeted the British traders and government officials who were prominent visitors in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, followed by expanding Spanish influence of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After serious confrontation in Micronesia between Spain and Germany, war was averted when Pope Leo XIII arbitrated the conflict and issued the Protocol of Rome in 1885 that reaffirmed Spanish sovereignty in Micronesia but rights to do business and enter ports to Germany. Financially exhausted with administering colonies in Micronesia, Spain sold the islands to Germany in 1899 for \$4.2 million. The German eagle prevailed, taking all island groups except Guam.

**WHEREAS**, control of Micronesia then passed to Japan in 1914 by virtue of Japanese monitoring of German warships during World War I, and the islands were legally granted to Japan by the League of Nations as a mandate in 1920 at the Paris Peace Conference. After the defeat of Japan in World War II, and the historic battles of Peleliu and Angaur of September 1944 that took the lives of more than 2,000 Americans and 10,000 Japanese, the United States gained control of what was then called the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands through the United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust

Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands through the United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with Palau administered as one of the three island groups' six districts; and

**WHEREAS**, after forty-seven years as part of the U.N. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under a U.S. administration, Palau's leaders opted for separation from the other islands areas in a special referendum in 1978, and on July 9, 1980, the Palau constitution was ratified, and its first constitutional elections were held. The islands then became known as the Republic of Palau in 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, Palau, adopted self- government by way of its Constitution and the Compact of Free Association with the United States, which was approved in 1993 after eight referendums and amendment to the Palau Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 1994 the United Nations Trusteeship Council issued a Resolution requesting the Government of the United States, in consultation with the Government of Palau, to agree on a date on or about October 1, 1994 for the full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association, and in July 1994 the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, reaffirmed October 1, 1994, as the effective date of the Compact provided that all legal challenges to the Compact had been resolved and they had been so resolved; and

**WHEREAS**, The Republic of Palau is an island nation in the northern Pacific Ocean, located east of the Philippines, and perched on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge. The westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands consists of 20 large islands and 566 smaller islands and is one of the world's youngest and least populated nations; and

**WHEREAS**, Koror or "Oreor", the largest town in Palau, is where seventy (70) percent of the republic's population live and is the place that hosts most annual festivities and special events for the island nation and was the site of the capital from Independence, in 1994 to 2006, when Melekeok became the new capital; and

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau joined the United Nations as its 185<sup>th</sup> member and took its seat in the U.N. in December 1994; and

43           **WHEREAS**, the splendor of Palau’s tropical wonder, with emerald green islands stretching more  
44   than 400 spectacular miles across pristine azure waters, is a Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising  
45   majestically from the sea, nourished by ocean currents and sculpted by nature and time, creating the  
46   stunning, world-famous Rock Islands of Palau, a marvel of nature; and

47           **WHEREAS**, Palau, was named the number one Underwater Wonder of the World by  
48   Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research (CEDAM) International, an  
49   organization of divers, marine scientists and conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral  
50   reefs, blue holes, WWII wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels, and over 60 vertical drop-offs are found in  
51   Palau where three major ocean currents meet to create an environment of abundance and enormous  
52   variety of marine life; the waters surrounding the Rock Islands literally teem with over 1,500 varieties of  
53   reef and pelagic fish and more than four times the number of coral species found in the Caribbean; and

54           **WHEREAS**, this small nation, a world leader in the global struggle to save our planet, stands tall  
55   among the nations setting new standards for environmental stewardship and nature conservancy which  
56   has contributed enormously towards the progress of the people of Palau. The traditional leadership, the  
57   National Congress, and President Johnson Toribiong, have worked together to move towards developing  
58   a thriving and prosperous tourism industry and a vibrant future based on cultural integrity and protection  
59   of its natural resources; and

60           **WHEREAS**, Palau’s wealth is not just found in its natural beauty but also in a blessing of human  
61   resources, a well-educated and highly talented people, an integration of modern technology and  
62   developed techniques to weave these sources of natural and human wealth together to promote, protect  
63   and conserve the most important resource of all: the traditions, culture, and history of a free and  
64   independent people, the nation of the Republic of Belau; and

65           **WHEREAS**, soon after World War II, the diversity of peoples from Palau brought their culture  
66   of hard work and respect for family and traditions to Guam, their home away from home; and

67           **WHEREAS** on October 1, 2011 the Republic of Palau celebrated its 17<sup>th</sup> year of Independence  
68 commemorating the establishment of its statehood followed by the Palauan community celebration on  
69 Guam on October 8, 2011; and

70           **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan Community Association of Guam are proud to be  
71 strong supporters of our island and the general island community by contributing to various educational,  
72 sports and community charities over the past several years; and

73           **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan community have continued to enrich our proud  
74 tradition of diversity and endow our island of Guam with their unique and collective strength; now,  
75 therefore, be it

76           **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina' Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahån*  
77 does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahån* and the people of Guam commemorate with the people  
78 of the Republic of Palau the 17<sup>th</sup> Independence Day by means of this celebration, and further extend a  
79 sincere Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse to all our fellow Palauans on Guam for the positive  
80 contributions they have made for the betterment of our island community; and be it further

81           **RESOLVED**, that the speaker certify to and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption  
82 hereof and that copies of the same be transmitted to the Honorable Johnson Toribiong, President of the  
83 Republic of Palau; the Council of Chiefs, the Palau Community Association of Guam, and to  
84 Congresswoman Madeline Z. Bordallo, and to the Honorable Eddie B. Calvo, I Maga'lahren Guahån.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON  
THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF October, 2011.**

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JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.  
Speaker

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TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES  
Legislative Secretary