

2012 APR 18

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

Resolution No. 355-31(45)

Introduced by:

A. A. Yamashita, PhD *ay*

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 2012 as "*Autism Awareness Month.*"

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

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

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

WHEREAS, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals have dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism; and in order to highlight the

growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating "National Autism Awareness Month" since the 1970s in the United States, recognizing the month of April as a time of special opportunity to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community;

WHEREAS, a proclamation was signed declaring April 2012 as *Autism Awareness Month*, when every resident of Guam is invited to participate in activities that educate and promote awareness of autism spectrum disorders that affect members of our community and their families;

WHEREAS, Autism Community Together (ACT), formed in January 2004, is spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the general public about autism and its effects; and, various activities are being coordinated throughout the month of April 2012 to further these goals, includes the family riding the trolley from GPO to the Governor's Office for the Proclamation signing and then having lunch at Chuck E. Cheese, a display and fair at the Agana Shopping Center with approximately 40 vendors participating to include education, employment, career and many related service agencies; a gaming competition; and a family potluck at Asan Beach park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan*

Guahan and the people of Guam commend and acknowledge those affected by autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children and others living with autism, as well as ACT for their efforts to promote autism awareness, and in the observance of the month of April 2012 as "Autism Awareness Month"; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, President, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Lourdes A. Mesa, Vice-President, Autism Community Together; to Ms. Mary Cruz, Secretary, Rindraty Celes-Limtiaco, Treasurer and Co-founder, Autism Community Together; and to the 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 14TH DAY OF APRIL 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson,
Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary



Office of Senator Aline A. Yamashita, PhD
I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahan
31st Guam Legislature

Asst. Minority Leader

Committee on Education &
Public Libraries

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Tourism, Housing and Recreation

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Procurement, General Government
Operations and Public Broadcasting

Member

Committee on Public Safety, Law
Enforcement and Judiciary

Member

S.A.F.E. Subcommittee

Sustaining Appropriate and Fair Environments

Chairwoman

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Memorandum

To: Ms. Patricia Santos,
Clerk of the Legislature

From: Senator Aline A. Yamashita, PhD *af*

Date: March 15, 2012

Subject: **Resolution: Autism Awareness Month**

Buenas yan Hafa Adai! Please find attached a resolution for introduction relative to commending Autism Community Together (ACT) for their efforts to promote autism awareness and in observance of the month of April 2012 as "Autism Awareness Month".

DATE: Saturday, April 14, 2012

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

VENUE: Agana Shopping Center

Thank you for your time, attention and assistance regarding this matter.

Attachment