

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

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Resolution No. *365-31 (cor)*

Introduced by

B.J.F. Cruz
R.J. Respicio

Relative to bringing further awareness to shark conservation, to support the enactment of protective legislation; to commend regional leaders for their commitment and to the implementation of the Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary encompassing the waters of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam; and to commend and congratulate the students and staff of George Washington High School and Simon Sanchez High School for their shark advocacy.

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

WHEREAS, According to fossil records, sharks have played an important role in the balance of our oceans ecosystem for about 450 million years; and

WHEREAS, Sharks grow very slowly and take a long time to reach sexual maturity – 20 years or more in some species. When they do reproduce, they produce very few offspring compared to other bony fish species; and

WHEREAS, Each year, millions of sharks die after being caught on longlines ranging in length from one mile to over one hundred miles with fish bait intended to catch tuna and swordfish; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Due to their slow rate of growth, shark populations cannot
2 sustain current slaughter rates; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Declining shark populations will have serious consequences
4 for ocean ecosystems because they are vital to the food chain and their predatory
5 nature helps to keep populations of their fish prey in check; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Without sharks preserving a healthy balance, coral reefs and
7 the entire marine environment risk immense permanent damage; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Through P.L. 31-10 and the recent unanimous passage of Bill
9 No. 405-31 (COR), the 31st Guam Legislature has taken significant steps to thwart
10 the pernicious practice of shark overfishing; and

11 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature supports Hawaii's passage of SB
12 2169 to prohibit the sale, possession or distribution of shark fins and fin products
13 and further supports the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands passage
14 of H.B. 17-94; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature supports President Barack Obama
16 signing the Shark Conservation Act into law and further supports the Republic of
17 Palau for creating the world's first shark sanctuary; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the 31st Guam Legislature commends and congratulates former
19 President Jurelang Zedkaia for passing strong legislation to create the Marshall
20 Islands National Shark Sanctuary (MINSS) and further commends President
21 Christopher Loeak for implementing enforcement; and

22 **WHEREAS**, The MINSS is 768,547 square miles, an area four times the
23 landmass of California and the strong legislation prohibits the commercial fishing
24 of sharks, the sale of sharks, a ban on certain longline fishing gear used to target
25 sharks, and stringent fines between \$25,000 and \$200,000 for anyone found to be
26 fishing for sharks or in possession of sharks; and

1 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature supports the Palau Shark Sanctuary
2 created in 2009 by President Johnson Toribiong that protects sharks in an area
3 roughly the size of France from illegal poachers and commercial fishing of sharks;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature recognizes and congratulates the
6 presidents and governors attending the 15th Micronesian Chief Executive Summit
7 for agreeing to a Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary encompassing the waters of
8 the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of
9 Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature supports the implementation of the
11 Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature recognizes and congratulates the
13 Simon Sanchez Sharks for their unyielding advocacy in support of shark
14 conservation; and

15 **WHEREAS**, The 31st Guam Legislature recognizes and congratulates the
16 George Washington Geckos for their unyielding advocacy in support of shark
17 conservation; and now therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
19 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
20 people of Guam, recognize and honor former President Jurelang Zedkaia for the
21 successful creation of the Marshall Islands National Shark Sanctuary; and be it
22 further

23 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
24 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
25 people of Guam, recognize and honor President Christopher Loeak for the
26 successful implementation of the Marshall Islands National Shark Sanctuary; and
27 be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
3 people of Guam, recognize and honor President Johnson Toribiong for declaring
4 and implementing the Palau Shark Sanctuary; and be it further

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 and honor Governor Benigno Fitial for signing the
8 Northern Mariana Islands Shark Fin Ban into law; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
10 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
11 people of Guam, recognize and honor Governor Eddie Calvo for signing the Guam
12 Shark Fin Ban into law; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
15 people of Guam, extend a most sincere *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse* to the
16 Simon Sanchez Sharks, and the staff and student body of Simon Sanchez High
17 School for their unyielding advocacy in support of shark conservation; and be it
18 further

19 **RESOLVED**, That the Committee on Rules of *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na*
20 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
21 people of Guam, extend a most sincere *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse* to the
22 George Washington Geckos, and the staff and student body of George Washington
23 High School for their unyielding advocacy in support of shark conservation; and be
24 it further

25 **RESOLVED**, That the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
26 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof, and that
27 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to former President Jurelang Zedkaia,

- 1 to President Christopher Loeak, to President Johnson Toribiong, to Governor
- 2 Benigno Fitial, to the Simon Sanchez Sharks, to the George Washington Geckos,
- 3 and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THE ----- DAY
OF SEPTEMBER 2011.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary