

I MINA 'TRENT AI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2012 (Second) Regular Session

2012 APR 23 PM 3:43
WJW

Resolution No. 383-31(45)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz



RELATIVE TO PROMOTING THE KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT, ESPECIALLY CHILD SEXUAL ASSAULT ON GUAM, AND TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE FRONT LINE STAFF ALL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM AGENCIES AND PRIVATE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS WHO WORK TIRELESSLY TO PREVENT AND TREAT VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE TO MAKE GUAM SAFER AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO REDUCING THE INCIDENCE OF CHILD ABUSE ON GUAM.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA***
2 ***'TRENT AI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** Child abuse and neglect, including child sexual assault are
4 social problems that contribute to significant personal challenges for victims and to
5 the decay of our families and communities as strong, viable units; and

6 **WHEREAS,** the reports of Child Abuse and Neglect cases on Guam were
7 1,897 affecting 2,512 children, an increase from 2011 of nearly 40%; and

8 **WHEREAS,** all other reports of referrals to the Department of Public
9 Health and Social Services' Child Protective Services was over 3,000 signaling an
10 urgent call for help in the protection of Guam's children, youth and families; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the incidences of child abuse and neglect often result in
2 lifelong challenges to the victims thwarting their personal development and
3 abilities to be productive citizens; and

4 **WHEREAS**, victims of child abuse and neglect are more likely to be at risk
5 for depression and other mental illness, for substance abuse, and to struggle to
6 sustain educational and work activities and maintain healthy interpersonal
7 relationships; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the hundreds of victims each year who are cases of
9 substantiated abuse impact thousands more individuals who they live and work
10 with and who are their family, friends and neighbors; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the community response to the tragedy of child abuse and
12 neglect rests with our families, communities and all of our agencies both private
13 and governmental; and

14 **WHEREAS**, there are a core group of individuals in these agencies who are
15 on the front lines ready and willing to assist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
16 including holidays, to protect and support victims of child abuse and neglect; and

17 **WHEREAS**, these individuals and agencies should be acknowledged for
18 their selfless dedication and commitment to our children, youth and families; and
19 now therefore be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, support
21 the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; the Department of Public
22 Health and Social Services; the Department of Youth Affairs; the Guam Police
23 Department; the Office of the Attorney General; the Superior Court of Guam;
24 Sanctuary, Incorporated; Catholic Social Services; Victims Advocates Reaching
25 Out (VARO); and the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family
26 Violence's (GCASAFV) efforts to increase the awareness and the strategies to
27 prevent child abuse and neglect on Guam and to continuously work in

1 collaboration with public and private entities to significantly reduce the incidences
2 of this destructive social ill; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
5 Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse; the Department of Public
6 Health and Social Services; the Department of Youth Affairs; the Guam Police
7 Department; the Office of the Attorney General; the Superior Court of Guam;
8 Sanctuary, Incorporated; Catholic Social Services; Victims Advocates Reaching
9 Out (VARO); and the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Family
10 Violence (GCASAFV); and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren*
11 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF *I MINA' TRENT AI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 27th
DAY OF APRIL 2012.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
Speaker


RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Secretary of the Legislature

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