


I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2012 (SECOND) REGULAR SESSION

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Resolution No. 394-31 (LS)

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, PhD 

Relative to recognizing, commending and applauding the Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, President, and Board of Regents of the University of Guam and the community on the observance of the University of Guam Founder's Day Celebration 2012 and the evolution of the institution of higher learning throughout the past sixty years.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, through the signing of the Organic Act of Guam in 1950, the island
4 inaugurated a civilian government replacing the US naval government, and shortly after,
5 Governor Carlton Skinner, the island's first appointed civilian governor, established the
6 Department of Education selecting as its director Dr. Jose R. Palomo who would soon
7 thereafter approach Governor Skinner with an idea to develop a college-level teacher-
8 training school on par with those in the Continental US— an idea that was also shared by
9 education pioneers Simon Sanchez and Agueda I. Johnston; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, in early 1951, with the governor's support, Dr. Palomo went before
11 the Guam Legislature and successfully lobbied for a fifteen thousand dollar (\$15,000.00)
12 appropriation which the governor supplemented with thirty thousand dollars
13 (\$30,000.00), bringing the total to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000) to begin the
14 process of establishing what would become the Territorial College of Guam; and,

1 **WHEREAS**, in September 1951, Dr. Palomo ventured off island reaching out to
2 three universities – the first two, University of California at Berkeley and New York
3 University, were unable to commit to the proposal because of obligations to projects in
4 Korea and Puerto Rico, but the third institution, Ohio State University, responded
5 positively; and,

6 **WHEREAS**, on 26 March 1952, the government of Guam— through the
7 authority of the governor of Guam, the Guam Legislature and the Board of Education—
8 entered into an agreement with the Ohio university for the development of a two-year
9 college-level education program to prepare students as elementary school teachers; the
10 College remained under the purview of the Department of Education, marking the
11 inauguration of the Territorial College of Guam; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, throughout the next six (6) decades the newly established college
13 would experience physical and academic developmental boons evolving from a two-year
14 degree college that offered associates in arts (AA) degree programs in elementary
15 education and liberal arts, and non-credit courses in vocational education to what is now
16 the only accredited US baccalaureate and master’s degree-granting university in
17 Micronesia that currently offers six (6) baccalaureate (BA, BA Ed, BBAA, BS, BSN, and
18 BSW) degrees and six (6) master’ s (MA, MEd, MPA, MS, PMBA, SW) degrees
19 conferred in thirty-four (34) undergraduate areas of study and fifteen (15) graduate
20 programs; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, the Territorial College of Guam held its first classes on 30 June
22 1952 in quaint settings of elephant Quonset huts of the former George Washington High
23 School campus, then located in the village of Mongmong, with an enrollment of one

1 hundred ninety-two (192) full-time students; graduating its first three (3) students with
2 AA degrees in 21 August 1953; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, after the agreement with Ohio State University ended on 01 April
4 1957 and administrative control of the College was turned over to the local government,
5 the institution would continue to experience a rapid staccato of changes, including: the
6 beginning of construction of its new campus in the village of Mangilao in 1958; receiving
7 accreditation as a Junior College from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges,
8 a year later, in 1959, and continuing to expand its curriculum to meet the needs of the
9 growing student population such as the addition of a nursing program; and, college
10 graduates also formed the Alumni Association in 1960; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, at the beginning of the 1960s, the campus would move to its
12 present-day Mangilao location where a two-story building housing classrooms and a
13 library were constructed; and in 1961, with the signing of Public Law No. 06-40, the
14 Territorial College of Guam was renamed the “College of Guam”; and, in 1963, Public
15 Law No. 07-66 was signed granting the College further autonomy removing it from the
16 authority of the Department of Education to a five-member governing Board of Regents;
17 and,

18 **WHEREAS**, throughout the 1960s through the 1970s the fledgling institution
19 would experience unprecedented burgeoning growth under the leadership of President
20 Antonio C. Yamashita beginning with the College receiving accreditation to start
21 conferring baccalaureate degrees in 1963 and again in 1965; beginning plans for the
22 organization of three (3) undergraduate schools and the Graduate School in 1967; and
23 within that same year, the College president gathered noted scholars of Guam history to

1 begin what would become, after decades of development, a world-class facility for social
2 sciences and humanities research about Guam and Micronesia, and to an extent, other
3 Pacific islands— the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC);
4 and, throughout the years, in addition to making publication possible of numerous
5 invaluable resources recording the history of Guam and Micronesia in hard copies, the
6 MARC has partnered with the private non-profit organization Guampedia, an online
7 encyclopedic resource about the history, culture and contemporary issues of Guam, to
8 digitally publish a series of MARC documents on the Guampedia website to include
9 historic documents including issues of the *Guam Recorder* from the early 1970s, the first
10 of many MARC documents to be shared with a worldwide audience over the Internet,
11 bringing the resource library into the digital era; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature passed a bill that was signed by Governor
13 Manuel F.L. Guerrero as Public Law No. 09-233 on 12 August 1968 renaming the
14 College the “University of Guam”; and over the next two years between 1968-1970,
15 physical facilities would grow in tandem with the faculty and student population – in
16 1968, a new library and the Fine Arts Building, and in 1970, the Science Building,
17 Student Center, dormitories and the Health/Science building were erected and the world-
18 renown University of Guam Marine Laboratory was established as a research unit; and,

19 **WHEREAS**, in 1972, the US Congress designated the University as a Land-
20 Grant Institution and two years later, in line with the designation, the College of
21 Agriculture and Life Sciences was created; and, in May 1975, the Water and Energy
22 Resource Center (what is today known as the Water and Environmental Research
23 Institute of the Western Pacific) was established — its mission to seek solutions through

1 research, teaching and outreach programs, to issues and problems associated with the
2 location, production, distribution and management of freshwater resources in Guam, the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia;
4 and,

5 **WHEREAS**, the University would further its autonomy in 1976 with the
6 enactment of “The Higher Education Act of 1976,” Public Law No. 13-194, that
7 established the University as a non-membership, non-profit corporation under the
8 governance of a nine-member Board of Regents appointed by the governor, subject to the
9 advice and consent of the legislature; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, what would eventually lead to the further cultivation of local artistic
11 talent and culture, in 1980 the Isla Center for the Arts was established as a non-profit
12 organization by University art faculty to showcase international artwork with the art
13 gallery holding its first exhibition in 1984; Isla became integrated into the University in
14 the 1990s; holds four (4) to six (6) shows a year that include: exhibitions of its permanent
15 collection of over five hundred (500) objects primarily from the Micronesian region,
16 juried university students’ exhibitions, traveling exhibits from renown institutes such as
17 the Smithsonian Institution’s Museum on Main Street (MOMS), a biannual juried exhibit
18 for local artists called “Creative Hands,” and for the past decade, the International
19 Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition that has featured a large number of well-known artists
20 from Hawaii, the U.S. mainland, Australia, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Germany,
21 Hungary, Japan, Korea, Norway, China, Taiwan, The Netherlands, and United Kingdom;
22 and, the annual Art-A-Thon, an exhibit of selected works from the local school children’s
23 fund raising event of the same name that provides funding for participating schools and

1 Isla and has raised more than \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) over the years to benefit
2 island students and to continue gallery operations; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, the US Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program was
4 established at the University of Guam on 19 October 1979 through the efforts of
5 President Yamashita, a US Army Veteran, who pushed to bring the US Army ROTC
6 program to the university during his tenure; and, as the Dean of the ROTC Program, Dr.
7 Wilfred P. Leon Guerrero, also a UOG president, was instrumental in laying the
8 groundwork for the future successes of the ROTC program; the ROTC Program's first
9 military science classes were held in Fall 1980, originally called the "Gold Warrior
10 Battalion," (which would later be renamed the "Triton Warrior Battalion" in 1994); and
11 by 1984, the UOG ROTC Program received the coveted "Warrior of the Pacific" award
12 from the US Department of the Army, the "Excelsior" award from the university
13 president, and US Congressional recognition for their performance; academic
14 scholarships followed, with cadets obtaining national ROTC Scholarships as well as
15 scholarships granted by the University Board of Regents; and, in 2002, receiving official
16 recognition from the Department of the Army as the Top US Army ROTC Program,
17 beating two hundred seventy (270) schools nationwide; and, to date, approximately three
18 hundred fifty (350) cadets have graduated and became commissioned as officers in the
19 US military; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, as a further example of the excellence of the UOG ROTC program,
21 three graduates: Lieutenant Colonel George Charfauros (graduated from UOG with a BA
22 Degree in 1989), Colonel Diron Cruz (graduated from UOG with a BA Degree in
23 1985), and Colonel Roderick Leon Guerrero (graduated from UOG with a BA Degree in

1 1989) receiving their commission from the UOG ROTC program before going on to
2 receive their master's degrees in strategic studies from the US Army War College in
3 2011, and the UOG ROTC program was key to providing the foundation in their
4 successful military career; and the UOG ROTC program has provided young men and
5 women from Guam and the surrounding islands an opportunity to become leaders in the
6 US Army; the three, and numerous other officers, would not have successful careers in
7 the US Army as Commissioned Officers if UOG did not have the ROTC program; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, in the 1980s the UOG Field House multipurpose sporting complex
9 with a 5,000-seat capacity opened its doors to host myriad events for the University and
10 the community; and in 1982 the University of Guam Endowment Foundation, Inc. was
11 established and in 1988 the Board of Regents approved the articles of incorporation and
12 by-laws for UOG Endowment Foundation, a non-profit organization, to receive
13 contributions in support of University projects and programs not traditionally funded by
14 the Government of Guam; and since its inception, the UOG Endowment Foundation has
15 been instrumental in stewarding projects, soliciting and securing both financial gifts and
16 in-kind contributions from the local government and community donors for projects such
17 as support for the financing of the Jesus S. and Eugenia A. Leon Guerrero School of
18 Business and Public Administration Building and for renovations to the Robert F.
19 Kennedy Library, the Micronesian Area Research Center, the Computer Center and the
20 UOG Field House; and,

21 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the University's colleges, the institution has also
22 expanded its research units: the Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental
23 Disabilities Education, Research & Service, which serves as a training and technical

1 assistance provider in the Pacific Basin region— the largest training, service, and
2 technical assistance center at the University; Cancer Research Center, a partnership
3 between the University of Guam & University of Hawaii; the Office of Sponsored
4 Programs and Research (OSPR), whose mission addresses three primary foci: teaching,
5 research, and outreach pertinent to the western Pacific region; Sea Grant, a partnership
6 between universities and the federal government’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration (NOAA); the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center, the research
8 division within the College of Natural and Applied Sciences associated with the national
9 Land Grant System; Assessment Program and Review; Center for Island Sustainability,
10 established in 2009, to tackle various issues in regards to Island Sustainability; and the
11 Western Pacific Coral Reef Initiative, a collaborative regional partnership whose mission
12 is to protect and preserve Micronesia’s reefs through multidisciplinary basic and applied
13 scientific ecosystem research that is directly applicable to management practices, as well
14 as via training and education; and,

15 **WHEREAS**, in addition to building facilities, structures and expanding
16 curriculum, the University has formed partnerships with the local and international
17 community- the latest being the April *Memorandum of Understanding* between the
18 University of Guam and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in which the
19 organizations will “further the development of basic scientific and applied research with
20 goals of advancing research in ocean science, gaining a more fundamental understanding
21 of the oceans, and benefitting society at large;” and,

22 **WHEREAS**, the University continues to experience the successes of its students
23 and faculty members who have received recognition in national-level competitions,

1 awards as well as academic accolades, and the University's programs annually receive
2 millions of dollars after competing for grants that will help to improve the quality of life
3 on Guam and in the region; and under current University President Robert A.

4 Underwood, the institution delves in the 21st century as students' "natural choice" as it
5 continues to successfully compete in a rapidly changing global economy by establishing
6 new curricula and programs such as a pre-engineering program and the Center for Island
7 Sustainability, among others; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, in sixty (60) years the University has conferred more than thirteen
9 thousand five hundred (13,500) degrees and has twelve thousand (12,000) alumni, many
10 of whom remain on Guam serving as the professional fiber of the local community as
11 well as in other areas in Micronesia and throughout the US, among them are families,
12 business chief executive officers and presidents, a Pulitzer Prize winner; non-
13 governmental organizations executive directors, governmental agency directors and
14 board members, a noted geneticist, doctors, lawyers, nurses, US military officers, police
15 officers, editors, teachers, principals, a governor and a lieutenant governor of Guam,
16 senators and speaker of the Guam Legislature, university and college professors, a
17 governor and a lieutenant governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
18 Islands, and a member of the Senate of the Republic of Palau, among many others who
19 have and continue to contribute to communities where they reside; and,

20 **WHEREAS**, from 1952 to 1963 the governing body of the Territorial College of
21 Guam was the Board of Education, with education directors and appointed deans serving
22 as chief administrative officers of the college; the directors were: Jose R. Palomo (1952);
23 John S. Haitema (1953-57); Simon Sanchez, who served in an acting capacity (1957);

1 John R. Trace (1957-62); and Cecil Wellis and Tom Rathbone, who served in an acting
2 capacity (1962-63); and deans included: Erwin E. Lewis (1952-53); Leonard O. Andrews
3 (1953-54); Eldon B. Sessions (1954-56); J. Marshall Hanna (1956-57); Pedro C. Sanchez,
4 who was also the first locally hired professor (1957-62); Harm Harms and Andrew Shook
5 (1961-62) who served in acting capacities; and, Floyd L. Taylor and Antonio C.
6 Yamashita, who served in an acting capacity (1962-63) and would later become the first
7 President of both the College and the University; and,

8 **WHEREAS**, the Presidents of the University include Antonio C. Yamashita
9 (1963-70 and 1974-1977); Alex C. Flores, who served in an acting capacity (1970);
10 Pedro Sanchez (1970-1974); Rosa R. Carter (1980-83); Jose Q. Cruz (1983-87); Wilfred
11 P. Leon Guerrero (1988-94); John C. Salas (1994-96); Jose T. Nededog (1996-00); Roy
12 T. Tsuda, who served in an acting capacity (1987-1988 and 2000-2001), Harold L. Allen
13 (2001-2008), Helen J.D. Whippy, who served in an acting capacity (2008); and Robert A.
14 Underwood (2008-present); and,

15 **WHEREAS**, the successes of the University of Guam in the past six (6) decades
16 highlights the multitude of reasons why it is the “natural choice” for our students and in
17 the university’s endeavors to continue to provide a state-of-the-art learning environment,
18 the University of Guam via the UOG Endowment Foundation has embarked on a five-
19 year capital fundraising campaign, dubbed “Celebrating the Triton Spirit,” to reach a
20 fundraising goal of thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) by the year 2017 to fund the
21 needs of the UOG physical master plan; to further exemplify the community’s
22 partnership with the institution, the UOG Endowment Foundation has already received
23 generous support from many organizations and also financial donations from private

1 organizations toward reaching its goal, including, but not limited to, GHD (the former
2 Winzler and Kelly), ASC Trust Corporation, Bank of Guam, Moylan's Insurance
3 Underwriters, Inc., Phillips and Bordallo, P.C., Coeval Design Partners, and Sodexo;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina 'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on
6 behalf of the people of Guam— the families of Guam— recognize, commend and
7 applaud the Students, Alumni, Faculty, Staff, President, and Board of Regents of the
8 University of Guam and the community on the observance of the University of Guam
9 Founder's Day Celebration 2012 and the evolution of the institution of higher learning
10 throughout the past sixty years; and be it further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
12 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Dr. Robert A.
13 Underwood, President of the University of Guam, and to the Honorable Eddie Baza
14 Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA*
***LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN* ON THIS DAY _____ OF _____ 2012.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary