

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

Resolution No. 405-31(LS)

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, PhD
Rory J. Respicio

2012 MAY - 1 PM 3:03
C/MK

Relative to encouraging the accurate location attribution of the Challenger Deep in order to create the widespread awareness of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia and secure potential economic benefits for the people of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Micronesia.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES /**

2 ***MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, the Challenger Deep, at thirty-five thousand, seven
4 hundred fifty-five (35,755) feet, is the deepest known point in the world, and
5 whose depth surpasses the height of Mt. Everest by an incredible one (1)
6 mile; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, the Challenger Deep has been and continues to be one
8 of the most newsworthy of the earth's natural features to be explored in the
9 last sixty (60) years; and,

10 **WHEREAS**, the global brands of *National Geographic* and
11 Hollywood director James Cameron and similar individuals and entities,
12 their production partners, content distributors, financial partners, licensees
13 and licenses, have established potentially lucrative business ventures by
14 exploring the Challenger Deep; and,

1 **WHEREAS**, no known residual structure or stakeholder plan has
2 been established, offered or required of *National Geographic* and
3 Hollywood director James Cameron and similar individuals and entities,
4 their production partners, content distributors, financial partners, licensees
5 and licenses, on behalf of the people of Micronesia whose homeland has
6 encompassed the Marianas Trench for thousands of years; and,

7 **WHEREAS**, Guam has always served as a launching point to
8 exploration of the Challenger Deep as it lies only two hundred (200) nautical
9 miles from Guam's coastline, beginning in 1958 with the first exploration by
10 Jacques Piccard of Switzerland and the US Navy, resulting in a successful
11 dive by the bathyscaphe *Trieste* on 23 January 1960; and,

12 **WHEREAS**, additionally, survey of the lexicon of communications
13 online and in print suggests a critical lack of attribution to Guam, the
14 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Micronesia as
15 the region encompassing the location of the Challenger Deep, which serves
16 to inhibit Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia from deriving potential
17 economic benefits from their geographic location in relation to the Trench;
18 and,

19 **WHEREAS**, Guam, as a US Territory, and the CNMI, as a
20 Commonwealth of the United States, are excluded from establishing and
21 collecting fees directly from any exploration of the Marianas Trench and the
22 Challenger Deep; and,

23 **WHEREAS**, the natural resources of Micronesia should, as a matter
24 of ethics and conscience, be managed by the people of Micronesia who are
25 entitled to secure sustained financial benefits and royalties from *National*
26 *Geographic*, James Cameron and similar individuals and entities, their
27 production partners, content distributors, financial partners, licensees and

1 licenses, and the revenues they will reap from their exploration of the
2 Marianas Trench and the Challenger Deep; and,

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia currently lack the
4 negotiation capabilities or capacity to effect this rightful financial
5 relationship, and as an example of how a country can benefit economically
6 from their natural features, the government of Nepal charges fees ranging
7 from \$25,000 for a one-member expedition to \$70,000 for seven members to
8 reach Mt. Everest; and,

9 **WHEREAS**, the People of Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia deserve
10 to be compensated by the exploitation of their natural treasures and
11 resources, inasmuch as others, such as *National Geographic* and James
12 Cameron will surely benefit; and,

13 **WHEREAS**, in the area of journalistic diligence, the Challenger Deep
14 is not routinely nor respectfully referenced as in Micronesia in the same way
15 California is routinely referenced with the San Andreas Fault, Arizona is
16 routinely referenced with the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park is
17 routinely clearly stated as being located in California, etc.; and,

18 **WHEREAS**, this journalistic and scientific disregard of Guam's, the
19 CNMI's and Micronesia's factual geographic location in relation to the
20 location of the Challenger Deep, impairs the efforts of Guam, the CNMI and
21 Micronesia to attain global recognition and develop sustainable economies;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*
24 together with the Governor of Guam, work swiftly in a bi-partisan and
25 unified effort to enforce said attribution in order to create the widespread
26 awareness of Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia and secure potential
27 economic benefits to the people of Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia; and to

1 create the architecture for securing the sustained financial benefit to the
2 people of Guam, the CNMI and Micronesia as a direct result of the
3 explorations by *National Geographic*, James Cameron and similar
4 individuals and entities, their production partners, content distributors,
5 financial partners, licensees and licenses; and, be it further

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee
7 on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof,
8 and that a copy be transmitted to the Honorable Edward J. Baza Calvo, *I*
9 *Maga'lahaen Guahan*.

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

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.

Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Secretary of the Legislature