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

Resolution No. 413-31 (COR)

As Amended

Introduced by:

Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
Dennis Rodriguez, Jr. *DR*

Relative to recognizing and commending the practitioners and participants who contribute to the success of the Judiciary of Guam's Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts and the local and federal District Court of Guam's Drug Offender Re-Entry Program ~~Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts of Guam~~, which has resulted in the significant reduction in the use of illegal substances, and in the criminal activities related to drug dependency; to extending *Un Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to them for their tremendous service to the community; and to further joining them in the celebration of "Drug Court Month" during the month of May 2012.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Local Drug Court programs were established ten (10) years
4 ago when the Juvenile Drug Court commenced on February 1, 2002 and the first
5 graduation took place on May 9, 2003; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a implementation and development Grant for the Adult Drug
7 Court was received in the year 2002 and the first treatment session commencing on
8 August 12, 2003 and the first graduation cycle on January 15, 2005; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Drug Offender Re-Entry Program "DORE"
10 *Prugraman Hinalom Talo* was established on August 21, 2008, welcoming ten (10)

1 participants during the first hearing held and with the first graduation held on
2 September 16, 2009; and

3 **WHEREAS**, nationally, Drug Courts have proven to be a successful solution to
4 budgetary concerns that benefit all facets of society through the provision of necessary
5 services and activities, which has helped to further reduce and eliminate drug use and
6 dependency. Drug Courts offers drug-dependent individuals facing or convicted of
7 criminal charges an opportunity to receive treatment and recovery for their drug use,
8 instead of jail time and recidivism; and

9 **WHEREAS**, local and federal Drug Courts are an essential component of the
10 national and local justice systems which save a tremendous amount of criminal justice
11 resources and help to return individuals to their communities as productive, tax paying
12 citizens; and

13 **WHEREAS**, local and federal Drug Courts serve as an effective tool in the
14 criminal justice system and help to avoid limited public funds from being spent on
15 costly, and sometimes ineffective services, which ultimately helps to reduce drug-
16 related crimes; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the local and federal Drug Courts continue to save taxpayers from
18 having to spend thousands of dollars to imprison drug offenders, as the average
19 monthly cost of providing treatment via these therapeutic programs range from two
20 hundred eighty dollars (\$280.00) to six hundred twenty dollars (\$620.00). The
21 estimated monthly cost to imprison an offender currently ranges from two thousand
22 four hundred dollars (\$2,400.00) to two thousand nine hundred dollars (\$2,900.00);
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, the results of several hundred program evaluations and at least a
25 several dozen meta-analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that local and
26 federal Drug Courts significantly improve substance abuse treatment outcomes,

1 substantially reduce drug abuse and related crimes, and do so at a cost less than that of
2 any other Court strategy; and

3 **WHEREAS**, local and federal Drug Courts facilitate community-wide
4 partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the
5 fight against the distribution and use of illegal substances; and

6 **WHEREAS**, throughout the nation, the Drug Court movement has grown from
7 the twelve (12) original Drug Courts in 1994 to over two thousand five hundred
8 (2,500) operational local and federal Drug Courts, further emphasizing the tremendous
9 successes of these Courts in their efforts to address drug use and dependency in
10 communities throughout the nation; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the time has come to put a Drug Court within reach of every
12 person in need, an effort that the Unified Judiciary of Guam and the District Court of
13 Guam ~~has~~ have supported and advocated for many years since their initial
14 establishment of such therapeutic Court programs ten (10) ~~several~~ years ago; and

15 **WHEREAS**, May ~~13 through 19~~ 1 through 31, 2012 marks *National Drug*
16 *Court Month ~~Commencement Week~~*, which celebrates the promise of recovery and
17 restored hope to local and federal Drug Court graduates, and their families; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
20 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the local and federal Adult
21 and Juvenile Drug Courts of Guam, in acknowledgement of the significant
22 contributions they have made in reducing the use of illegal substances, drug-related
23 crimes and recidivism, while saving valuable resources; does extend a warmhearted
24 *Un Dangkolo' Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the many local and federal Adult and Juvenile
25 Drug Court practitioners and participants for their tremendous efforts toward
26 contributing positively to our island community in the reduction of criminal activities

1 associated with drug dependency and, most importantly, for restoring and
2 strengthening families on Guam; and does further join them in the celebration of
3 ***“Local and Federal Drug Court Month”*** in May, 2012; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
5 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
6 Honorable F. Phillip Carbullido, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam ~~Judiciary of~~
7 ~~Guam~~; to the Honorable Alberto C. Lamorena III, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of
8 Guam; to the Honorable Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood, Chief Judge, U.S. District
9 Court, of Guam; to the Honorable Judge Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Jr., Magistrate
10 Judge, District Court of Guam; to the local and federal Adult Drug Court and Juvenile
11 Drug Court Administrators, ~~Superior Court of Guam~~; and to the Honorable Edward
12 J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 13TH DAY OF MAY 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary