

I Mina' Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	Date Adopted
424-32 (COR	Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.	Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st anniversary as the Guam Chief Medical Examiner and to further extend a warm and sincere Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu' os Ma'åse' for his service and commitment to our island and regional community.	7/11/14 9:04 a.m.	09/08/14			08/27/14

I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2014 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 424-32 (COR)

Introduced by:

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
R.J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Michael T. Limtiaco
Brant T. McCreddie
Tommy Morrison
T. R. Muña Barnes
Michael F. Q. San Nicolas
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary of serving as Guam's Chief Medical Examiner; and to further extending a warm and sincere *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to him for his service and commitment to the people of our island, and the regional community.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** Dr. Aurelio Espinola is the son of a soldier and a dressmaker, and
4 grew up with three (3) siblings in Isabela, Philippines. The young Aurelio started
5 working at the age of 8 (eight) years old, and his dream at the time was to become a

1 farmer; however, the simple dream was changed by his realization of the impact of
2 poverty. When his brother got sick, young Aurelio tried to receive help for him from a
3 doctor, but the doctor declined to help him because he didn't have any money to pay
4 the doctor for medical services. Since then, Aurelio told himself he would become a
5 doctor to help people who cannot afford to pay for medical services; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Aurelio's poverty did not prevent him from pursuing his dream.
7 After finishing high school at the Victorino Mapa High School in Manila, Aurelio
8 enrolled at Manila Central University for his studies in pre-medicine; and he then
9 became a Doctor of Medicine at Manila Central University. While studying at the
10 University, he worked after school at the Manila Night Court, attending to cases of
11 traffic violators, prostitutes, and other criminal cases; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Aurelio Espinola's first internship was at the V. Luna Medical
13 Hospital, a military hospital in the Philippines. Dr. Espinola graduated at the age of
14 twenty-three (23) years old, an age so young that people would not have easily
15 believed he was a doctor. After a year of private practice, he worked as the Boat
16 Physician of the MV Legaspi of the Philippines Steam Navigation. During that time,
17 he studied obstetrics and gynecology, and he became an ob-gyn; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Espinola was also an Instructor at the Ortanez General
19 Hospital School of Nursing and Midwifery, where he met a young nursing student
20 who eventually became his wife. Dr. Espinola also studied anesthesiology for two
21 years before he and his family migrated to the state of Ohio, where he worked as a
22 Surgical Assistant. In 1971, he went to the state of Michigan to work as an Intern of
23 Straight Pathology at the Detroit-Macomb Hospital Association; and he then became a
24 Pathology Resident at Wayne State University; and

1 **WHEREAS**, before he became the sole Chief Medical Examiner on Guam, Dr.
2 Espinola worked for ten (10) years as a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner at Harris
3 County in Houston, Texas, where he conducted at least ten thousand (10,000)
4 autopsies a year. Upon visiting the island of Guam during a stopover on his way back
5 to Texas, Dr. Espinola was convinced by a family member of another Filipino
6 prominent doctor, the late Dr. Ernesto Espaldon, to work on the island. With only two
7 weeks to resign from his job in Harris County, Dr. Espinola packed up his belongings
8 and started his new life in our very own island community; and

9 **WHEREAS**, since July 1993, Dr. Espinola has been reporting to perform his
10 very important work at an office at the Guam Memorial Hospital. He is in charge of
11 death investigations on Guam, and in Micronesia. He performs an average of five
12 hundred (500) autopsies on Guam every year; and an average of ten (10) autopsies
13 every year on Saipan. He has performed at least ten thousand five hundred (10,500)
14 post-mortem examinations on Guam since he became the Chief Medical Examiner of
15 the island twenty-one (21) years ago. He has never missed a single day of work,
16 except when he is attending training off-island. He has had a one hundred (100)
17 percent work attendance record. He has never called in sick because he was never
18 sick; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in his work as the Chief Medical Examiner of Guam, before Dr.
20 Espinola would begin an autopsy, he would first talk to the family of the deceased
21 person. On Guam, the medical examiner does the work of a medico-legal death
22 investigator, a forensic examiner, and a counselor, in addition to court duties. In order
23 to deliver effective court testimonies, Dr. Espinola studied law at South Texas College
24 of Law. Although he didn't want to be a lawyer, Dr. Espinola realized the importance

1 of learning how to present a good forensic investigation as an aid for justice in the
2 courtroom; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Espinola shared his secret method in effectively performing
4 his job: to remove any emotions throughout all the tasks at hand. The emotional
5 detachment he learned over time made him so emotionally numb he didn't even cry
6 when his parents died. However, the job is still very difficult for him, as he gets
7 disturbed if the victims were children. If he actually knew the person who was to be
8 examined he would cover their face, because being the only medical examiner on
9 Guam, he is required to examine every single body regardless of how close he may be
10 to that person; and

11 **WHEREAS**, while it may be unbelievable that Dr. Espinola never got sick all
12 his life, it is probably more unbelievable that the small-framed doctor used to compete
13 in amateur boxing in the Philippines. Before he moved to Guam, Dr. Espinola had
14 served as an active duty member of the U.S. Army. He was a Lieutenant Colonel and
15 was deployed as part of Operation Desert Shield during the Persian Gulf War. Dr.
16 Espinola then gave up his active military position when he moved to Guam because he
17 couldn't leave his post for deployment; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Espinola may be the most important government official on
19 Guam because as a forensic medical examiner, he holds a very important role in the
20 legal system. He gives closure to every death situation, and his opinion and findings
21 are the keys in providing justice to victims of foul play; and

22 **WHEREAS**, aside from his expertise with surgical instruments while
23 conducting autopsies, Dr. Espinola also is very adept with culinary instruments in
24 pursuing his love of the culinary arts. He enrolled at the Guam Community College to
25 learn how to cook oriental dishes, and studied there for two years; and

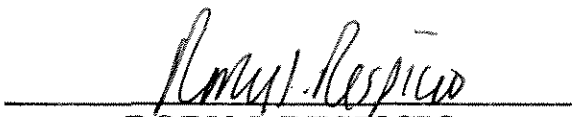
1 **WHEREAS**, at this point in his life, Dr. Espinola wants to teach about the
2 importance of forensic science in the justice system. He was part of the “Who’s Who
3 Medical Specialist” - 19th Edition in 1980 Southwest. This jolly doctor is not looking
4 at retiring yet. Currently, Dr. Espinola is learning about motorcycle parts because he
5 has just ventured into the sales business; now therefore, be it


6 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina‘Trentai Dos Na*
7 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
8 of Guam, recognize and congratulate Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary
9 of serving as Guam’s Chief Medical Examiner; and does further extend a warm and
10 sincere *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu’os Ma’åse’* to him for his service and commitment to
11 the people of our island, and the regional community; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
13 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
14 the same be thereafter transmitted to Dr. Aurelio Espinola; and to the Honorable
15 Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 27TH
DAY OF AUGUST 2014.**


BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ
Acting Speaker


RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


TINA ROSEMUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary



COMMITTEE ON RULES

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VOTING SHEET

Resolution No. 424-32 (COR) Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. - "Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary of serving as Guam's Chief Medical Examiner; and to further extending a warm and sincere *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu' os Ma'åse'* to him for his service and commitment to the people of our island, and the regional community"

2014 AUG 27 AM 11:02

	SIGNATURE	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
SENATOR RORY J. RESPICIO Chairperson	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SENATOR THOMAS C. ADA Vice-Chairperson	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SPEAKER JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D. Member	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
VICE-SPEAKER BENJAMIN J.F. CRUZ Member	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES Member	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SENATOR DENNIS G. RODRIGUEZ, JR. Member	<i>ev</i>	<i>8/26/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SENATOR FRANK BLAS AGUON, JR. Member					
SENATOR MICHAEL F.Q. SAN NICOLAS Member					
SENATOR V. ANTHONY ADA Minority Member	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
SENATOR ALINE YAMASHITA Minority Member	<i>evote</i>	<i>8/25/14</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

For Sponsor's Office Use Only

Sponsor Signature: *DR*

Staff Contact Person: *Joe Mesngan*

Date: *8/26/14*

For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only

8 Certified Returned

Name: *hr*

Date: *8/27/14*

Notes: _____