

I Mina Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
Resolutions Log Sheet

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Referred	Committee / Ofc Referred	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	Date Adopted
120-33 (LS)	T. R. Muña Barnes Frank F. Blas, Jr. Rory J. Respicio V. Anthony Ada	Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Foster Families Association and Kathleen Thomas-Benavente, President, Foster Family Association, for their commitment and dedication to helping foster families on Guam through educating the public and advocating for foster families and children on the observance of "Foster Care Month" during the month of May.	05/27/15 5:17 p.m.	05/30/15 2:00 p.m.					05/27/15

I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2015 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 120-33 (LS)

Introduced by:

T. R. Muña Barnes
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
R. J. Respicio
V. Anthony Ada
T. C. Ada
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
B. J.F. Cruz
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Tommy Morrison
Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
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Mary Camacho Torres
N. B. Underwood, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Foster Families Association and Kathleen Thomas-Benavente, President, Foster Family Association, for their commitment and dedication to helping foster families on Guam through educating the public and advocating for foster families and children on the observance of “Foster Care Month” during the month of May.

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

1 **WHEREAS**, in 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of May
2 as “National Foster Care Month” to honor and give appreciation to foster parents who
3 open their homes to children in need; and

4 **WHEREAS**, foster placement provides safety and stability for children, helps
5 them heal from bad experiences and flourish as adults, and helps children with their
6 social and emotional development; and

7 **WHEREAS**, foster parents, caregivers, and various community providers and
8 advocates help to reduce and prevent the risks of child abuse and neglect in our
9 community; and

10 **WHEREAS**, there are one hundred fifty-seven (157) foster children in the
11 foster care system, with only twenty-three (23) of them being placed in foster homes
12 as of April 2015; and there are only twenty-four (24) licensed foster homes; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, in 2009, the Guam Foster Families Association was founded in
15 order to help foster families on Guam, and to advocate for more licensed foster homes
16 on Guam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Foster Families Association also provides training for
18 foster parents to better help their children socially and emotionally; they assist with
19 the unification of biological parents with children; they enhance the skills of foster
20 advocates and child care providers; they help parents take responsibility and advocate
21 for themselves and children; and they promote the Five Protective Factors of
22 strengthening families. These Five Protective Factors include parent resilience,
23 knowledge of parenting and child development, social and emotional competence of
24 children, social connections, and concrete support in times of need; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in its efforts to promote and observe “Foster Care Month,” the
2 Guam Foster Families Association worked with the Guam Community College and
3 the Guam Community College SM208 Personnel Supervision class to create a Zero-K
4 event on May 1, 2015. The class donated “50 Go Bags” to go to Child Protective
5 Services for foster children; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Foster Families Association was the beneficiary of a
7 boot drive which was hosted by local paramedics in observance of “Emergency
8 Medical Services Week” on May 8, 2015; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Foster Families Association created the *Foster*
10 *Advocate of the Year* during “Foster Care Month” to highlight the individuals and
11 organizations that work hard in advocating and supporting Guam’s foster children;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Foster Families Association has an additional outreach
14 program during “Foster Care Month,” recognizing and awarding volunteers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, more work needs to be done to address the needs and recognize
16 all those affected by the foster care system; and

17 **WHEREAS**, May is an appropriate month to bring awareness of the needs of
18 all those affected by foster care, and to provide acknowledgment of the
19 accomplishments of the selfless work that the child welfare workforce, foster parents,
20 the advocacy community, and mentors have done to improve the lives of the children
21 involved in the foster care system; now therefore, be it

22 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
23 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the Guam Foster Families
24 Association and Kathleen Thomas-Benavente, President, Foster Family Association,
25 for their commitment and dedication to helping foster families on Guam through

1 educating the public and advocating for foster families and children and on the
2 observance of “Foster Care Month” during the month of May; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
4 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam
5 Foster Families Association; Kathleen Thomas-Benavente, President, Foster Family
6 Association; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 27TH DAY OF MAY 2015.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary