

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
168-33 (LS)	N. B. Underwood, Ph.D. Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.	Relative to recognizing and congratulating Barbara "Bobbie" S.N. Benavente on the occasion of her retirement after thirty-eight (38) years of distinguished service with the Government of Guam; and to further extending a heartfelt Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to her for her tremendous contributions and exemplary work in establishing numerous prevention initiatives for our island's community.	08/24/15 10:30 a.m.	09/16/15 1:00 p.m.					08/24/15

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

Resolution No. 168-33 (LS)

Introduced by:

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

Relative to recognizing and congratulating Barbara “Bobbie” S.N. Benavente on the occasion of her retirement after thirty-eight (38) years of distinguished service with the Government of Guam; and to further extending a heartfelt *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to her for her tremendous contributions and exemplary work in establishing numerous prevention initiatives for our island’s community.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN:***
3 **WHEREAS,** Barbara S.N. Benavente, known affectionately as “Bobbie” by her staff
4 and colleagues within the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, graduated
5 from the University of Guam in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public

1 Administration, and received a Masters degree in Public Administration in 1999. In
2 2007, she became a Certified Prevention Specialist with the Pacific Substance Abuse
3 and Mental Health Certification Board, and the International Certification and
4 Reciprocity Consortium; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie started her career in public service with the government of
6 Guam in 1977, working as an Administrative Aide at the Community Affairs Office
7 within the Office of the Governor, where she provided assistance and coordination of
8 the community outreach and educational efforts during the “1970’s heroin crisis”
9 when drug abuse was rampant on Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1979, Bobbie then started working at the Guam Department of
11 Mental Health and Substance Abuse, which is now known as the Guam Behavioral
12 Health and Wellness Center, where she served as a Prevention Specialist, and she
13 initiated a state and community-level training program; she developed a three-year
14 plan for the Department; and she created the resources development on culturally
15 relevant and appropriate educational tools on substance abuse prevention; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 1981, Bobbie served as the Training Coordinator for the
17 Micronesian Head Start Training and Technical Assistance Program for the Pacific
18 Studies Institute; in 1985, she worked as a Program Coordinator III in the Office of
19 the Deputy Director; and in 2001, she was a Program Manager for
20 Melendez/Benavente, a private consultant firm serving the U.S. District Court of
21 Guam, and U.S. Probation Office, coordinating the referrals and provisions for mental
22 health, psychological, psychiatric drug treatment and drug testing services for the
23 federal court clientele; and she was instrumental in the establishment of drug testing
24 and training protocols; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie now serves as the Supervisor of the Prevention and
26 Training Branch, Division of Clinical Services of the Guam Behavioral Health and

1 Wellness Center, where she has led her team over the years to develop strategic and
2 comprehensive prevention plans for numerous programs and services, including, the
3 implementation of substance abuse prevention and mental health promotion services;
4 the program policy development for suicide prevention training and technical
5 assistance provider; the survivors of suicide group facilitation; grant writing with the
6 Pacific Region Strategic Program and Implementation on mental health and substance
7 abuse, Guam's focal point of contact with the World Pacific Regional Office in
8 Manila, Philippines World Health Organization, for mental health and substance
9 abuse; and the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate programs and
10 services, to name a few; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie also serves as the Principal Investigator for five (5)
12 simultaneously occurring grants in various prevention initiatives, such as: the Guam
13 Tobacco Enforcement FDA Grant; the Guam State Youth Suicide Prevention Grant
14 entitled, "Focus on Life"; the Guam PEACE Strategic Prevention Framework State
15 Incentive Grant; the Guam State Prevention Enhancement Grant; and the Guam
16 PEACE Partnerships for Success Grant; and

17 **WHEREAS**, with Bobbie's guidance, the Prevention and Training Branch
18 established the Youth for Youth Leadership Development Program to help elevate the
19 voice of the youth and to generate youth leaders within the community; and which led
20 to the annual "Youth for Youth Conference," where hundreds of youth have
21 participated for the past twenty-five (25) years; and

22 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie is an exceptional grant team leader and writer/manager
23 who has ushered in millions of dollars in grant money to educate our community on
24 substance abuse prevention, and to address critical issues raised by the many
25 initiatives she has spearheaded; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie has served as a member of various professional
2 affiliations, such as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration’s
3 (SAMHSA) Committee for Women’s Services; she is a current member and Vice-
4 President of the Pacific Substance and Mental Health Collaborating Council; she is a
5 Advisory Committee Member and a Board Member of the Asian Pacific Partners for
6 Empowerment Advocacy and Leadership; she is an Executive Board Member of the
7 National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse; she is an
8 Executive Board Member of the National Asian Pacific American Families Against
9 Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA); and she is an Advisory Committee Member of the
10 Asians and Pacific Partners for Empowerment and Leadership (APPEAL); and

11 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie is also a member and current President of the Pacific
12 Behavioral Health Collaborating Council (PBHCC), whose leaders represent the
13 Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Commonwealth of the
14 Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and
15 Guam; and she was instrumental in the initial establishment of the regional PBHCC,
16 which has become a leading entity in the efforts of workforce development, training,
17 and certification of prevention and substance abuse counselors on Guam, and in other
18 Pacific islands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Barbara S.N. Benavente is locally, regionally and nationally
20 recognized and valued as a credible and phenomenal “Pacific Island Woman and
21 Leader” with a reputation of being a fierce advocate of “doing work for the right
22 reasons”; and she was awarded with the “2014 Public Citizen Award” of the National
23 Association of Social Workers, Guam Chapter; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie is described as an excellent manager and a compassionate
25 person who treats her staff like her own family; and her approach to work is with a

1 “family first” philosophy, creating an “unselfish and more than fair” attitude with her
2 staff; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Bobbie is also described as being a feisty, candid, bold,
4 courageous, and genuine person in her personal and professional interactions; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Barbara Benavente’s leadership has led the community to “take a
6 stand” against the destructive behaviors evident on Guam, and to speak out instead for
7 family and community pride and wellness; now therefore, be it

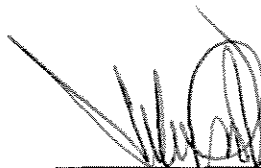
8 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Trentai Tres Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
9 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and congratulate Barbara “Bobbie” S.N.
10 Benavente on the occasion of her retirement after thirty-eight (38) years of
11 distinguished service with the Government of Guam; and does further extend a
12 heartfelt *Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to her for her tremendous contributions
13 and exemplary work in establishing numerous prevention initiatives for our island’s
14 community; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
16 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Barbara
17 S.N. Benavente; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'låhen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI TRES NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 24TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2015.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary