I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Executive Committee Resolution No. 140

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio Judith Paulette Guthertz <u>Tina Rose Muña Barnes</u> Frank F. Blas, Jr. Edward J.B. Calvo James V. Espaldon Mark Forbes Frank T. Ishizaki J. A. Lujan A. B. Palacios, Sr. v. c. pangelinan David L.G. Shimizu Ray Tenorio J. T. Won Pat

Relative to designating the week of November 5th to November 11th, 2007 as "Shelter Appreciation Week" for Guam Animals In Need, Inc. (GAIN) and in recognition of GAIN's animal shelter employees and volunteers.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I* 2 *MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

3 WHEREAS, there are more than one hundred seventy three thousand 4 (173,000) people living in Guam, a majority of whom are pet owners; and

5 WHEREAS, while there is no accurate accounting on the number of pets or of 6 stray animals in Guam, it is widely agreed that there are far too many stray and 7 unwanted animals roaming our island; and WHEREAS, a lack of knowledge or responsible action on the part of some pet
 owners has resulted in many animals running loose and unsupervised, causing a threat
 to public health and safety; and

4 WHEREAS, unfortunately, many of Guam's pet owners have not had the time 5 or recognized the need to have their companion animals spayed or neutered, leading to 6 indiscriminate breeding of their pets, contributing to Guam's severe pet over 7 population; and

8 WHEREAS, in addition, a lack of enforcement of existing animal control laws, 9 combined with old, poorly written laws, have allowed pet owners to ignore a number 10 of laws, including leash laws, that would otherwise have protected many of Guam's 11 animals; and

WHEREAS, much like police officers, emergency medical personnel and other community assistance workers, employees of animal shelters must respond whenever such community problems and crises arise; and

WHEREAS, our island's animal shelter, Guam Animals In Need, Inc., usually
 referred to as "GAIN," acts as a safe haven for homeless and abused animals,
 providing them with comfort and care; and

WHEREAS, GAIN helps both animals and residents in Guam in many ways including returning lost pets to their owners; enforcing animal control laws; ensuring that adopted animals have their rabies shots and are issued pet licenses; receiving injured animals from the public; providing education for the public; and matching up families with new animal companions; and

WHEREAS, GAIN's assistance extends beyond Guam's shores as they host off-island organizations, such as a group of twenty-five to forty (25 to 40) students from Japanese School Tohoku Aiken Senmon Gakuin (Technical School for Groomers and Veterinary Technicians), accompanied by instructor Nagisa Makino who teaches a veterinary technician course who are visiting the GAIN shelter as part
 of their course, field trips to Guam having taken place for the last several years; and

WHEREAS, GAIN will present the school group with an "Adopt A Kennel"
sign in their name to affirm the relationship between the school and GAIN; and

5 WHEREAS, the work of GAIN and the important services provided by the 6 shelter's staff and volunteers may be recognized abroad, but often goes unnoticed and 7 is frequently under-appreciated by the citizens of Guam and should be acknowledged; 8 now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED,** that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na* 10 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people 11 of Guam, designate the week of November 5th to November 11th, 2006, as "Shelter 12 Appreciation Week" for Guam Animals In Need, Inc. to coincide with "National 13 Animal Shelter Appreciation Week" being held on the same dates across the United 14 States; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED,** that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, 16 on behalf of the people of Guam, acknowledge and commend the services provided to 17 the animals and people in our community by the employees and volunteers of Guam 18 Animals In Need, Inc.; and be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive Committee 20 certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that 21 copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Marie Chenery, President of Guam 22 Animals In Need, Inc. (GAIN); and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen* 23 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 8TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2007.

EDWARD J.B. CALVO Acting Speaker and Chairman, Executive Committee

RAY/TENÓRIO Senator and Secretary of the Legislature