

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Executive Committee
Resolution No. 238

Introduced by:

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A. B. Palacios, Sr.

v. c. pangelinan

Ray Tenorio

Relative to commending the Government and People of *Belau* in recognition and commemoration of their Independence on the auspicious occasion of the Fourteenth (14th) Annual Celebration of the establishment of the Republic of *Belau* on October 1, 1994.

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

3 **WHEREAS, *Belau* with an ancient history spanning more than four (4)**
4 **millennia, greeted British traders, prominent visitors in the 18th century,**

1 followed by expanding Spanish influence in the 19th century. Following
2 defeat in the Spanish-American War, Spain, *Belau* and most of the rest of the
3 Caroline Islands then fell under German control in 1899; and

4 **WHEREAS**, control then passed to Japan in 1914, when during World
5 War II the islands were taken by the United States in 1944, with the costly
6 Battle of *Peleliu* between September 15 and November 25 with more than two
7 thousand (2,000) Americans and ten thousand (10,000) Japanese killed. The
8 islands passed formally to the United States under United Nations auspices in
9 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

10 **WHEREAS**, after three (3) decades as part of the UN Trust Territory of
11 the Pacific under US administration, this westernmost cluster of the Caroline
12 Islands opted for independence in 1978 rather than join the Federated States of
13 Micronesia and became the Republic of *Belau* in 1981; and

14 **WHEREAS**, *Belau*, adopted a constitutional government in a Compact of
15 Free Association with the United States, approved in 1986 after eight (8)
16 referendums and an amendment to the *Palauan* Constitution. The compact
17 was not ratified until 1993, and entered into with the United States on October
18 1, 1994, which marked *Belau's* independence; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of *Belau*, with its main island *Babeldaob*
20 (*Babelthuap*), is an island nation in the northern Pacific Ocean, located east of
21 the Philippines, and perched on the *Kyushu-Palau* Ridge. The westernmost
22 cluster of the Caroline Islands consists of twenty (20) large islands and five

1 hundred sixty-six (566) smaller islands and is one of the world's youngest and
2 least populated nations; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the splendor of this tropical wonder of nature, emerald
4 green islands stretching more than four hundred (400) spectacular miles
5 across pristine azure waters, is a Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising
6 majestically from the sea, undercut by ocean currents and chiseled by nature
7 and time, creating the stunning, world-famous Rock Islands of *Belau*, a marvel
8 of nature; and

9 **WHEREAS**, *Belau* was named the number one Underwater Wonder of
10 the World by *Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research*
11 *(CEDAM) International*, an organization of divers, marine scientists and
12 conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral reefs, blue holes,
13 WWII wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels and over sixty (60) vertical drop-offs
14 are found in *Belau* where three (3) major ocean currents meet to create an
15 environment of abundance and enormous variety of marine life; the waters
16 surrounding the Rock Islands literally teem with over fifteen hundred (1500)
17 varieties of reef and pelagic fish and more than four (4) times the number of
18 coral species found in the Caribbean; and

19 **WHEREAS**, this tiny nation, a world leader in the global struggle to
20 save our planet, stands tall among the nations setting new standards for
21 environmental stewardship and nature conservancy which has contributed
22 enormously towards the progress the people of *Belau*, the Traditional

1 Leadership, the Government, and President Tommy Remengesau, Jr., have
2 made together towards developing a thriving and prosperous tourism
3 industry and a vibrant future based on cultural integrity and natural
4 resources; and

5 **WHEREAS**, *Belau's* wealth is not just found in its natural resources, but
6 also in a blessing of human resources, a well-educated and highly talented
7 population, using the most modern technology and development techniques
8 to weave these sources of natural and human wealth together to promote,
9 protect and develop the most important resource of all: the traditions, culture,
10 and history of a free people, the independent nation of the Republic of *Belau*;
11 now, therefore, be it

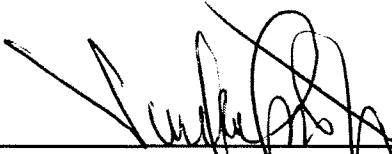
12 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na*
13 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
14 people of Guam commend the people of the Republic of *Belau* on the occasion
15 of *Belau's* Fourteenth (14th) Independence Day Celebration; and be it further

16 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Executive
17 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
18 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to President of
19 *Belau* Tommy Remengesau, Jr.; to the Council of Chiefs of *Belau*; and to the
20 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2008.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
Speaker and
Chairperson, Executive Committee



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature