

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

Executive Committee
Resolution No. 28

Introduced by:

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

Relative to commending and congratulating Katherine Bordallo Aguon, PH.D., for her many years of service to Guam; and for her lifelong dedication to the perpetuation, preservation, and promotion of the *Chamorro* language, culture, traditions, and identity.

- 1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I**
2 ***MINA'BENTE ÑUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***
- 3 **WHEREAS, Katherine B. Aguon, Ph.D., is married to Edward Leon**
4 **Guerrero Aguon, and together they were blessed with eight (8) children:**

1 Ronald, Ernestina, Linda, Josita, Gailey, Barbara, and twins Gena, and
2 Baltazar, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1950, Dr. Aguon embarked on a lifelong career as a
4 public servant in the realm of education and educating when, at the age of
5 eighteen (18), she began teaching at the former Sinajana and Agana
6 Elementary Schools and at George Washington High School, among others;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Katherine Aguon, with the support of her husband
9 Edward, while raising a family, attained every level of higher education
10 offered, beginning with an Associates of Arts degree, then a Bachelors of Arts
11 degree in Social Science with a minor in English from the University of Guam
12 (UOG), and shortly thereafter, a Masters of Arts degree in Secondary
13 Education with a minor in Administration from the University of San
14 Francisco, California; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in June of 1971, Dr. Katherine B. Aguon, now married to
16 Edward for over twenty (20) years and a mother of eight (8), etched her name
17 in Guam history when she became the first woman of *Chamorro* descent to
18 earn a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Dr. Aguon earned her doctorate in
19 Curriculum and Instruction with a minor in Administration from the
20 University of California at Berkeley; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Aguon returned to the island and continued work as an
22 educator as an Associate Professor at UOG and, in 1972, Dr. Aguon marked
23 yet another first for *Chamorro* women when she was tapped to head the

1 Department of Education, becoming the first *Chamorro* woman to lead a major
2 government agency; and

3 **WHEREAS**, as the head of Department of Education, Dr. Aguon
4 expanded on her promotion of the island's cultures and traditions and
5 preservation of the language by creating the Division of *Chamorro* Studies; by
6 then, Dr. Aguon had already been recognized as one of the foremost
7 authorities on the *Chamorro* culture and language; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 1975, Dr. Aguon returned to the University of Guam as a
9 Professor and two (2) years later was elected to serve as a member of the
10 Fourteenth (14th) Guam Legislature; as the lone female of the twenty-one (21)
11 member lawmaking body; she was elected by her colleagues to the position of
12 Vice Speaker, the first woman to be elected to the second most recognized
13 position in the legislature; and she also chaired the Committee on Education;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Aguon was re-elected to the Fifteenth (15th) Guam
16 Legislature and retained her committee chair and position of Vice Speaker;
17 while a lawmaker, Senator Aguon proposed and helped pass laws that
18 created the Guam Community College, laws that championed the rights of
19 women, including the spousal abuse and rape law and community property
20 law, and other laws that continue to impact education and the betterment of
21 society today; and

22 **WHEREAS**, once again serving as the Director of Education during then
23 Governor Calvo's administration, Dr. Aguon reshaped the island's
24 educational structure to meet the demands of a growing population by

1 converting junior high schools to senior high schools and creating a handful of
2 middle schools. Under her leadership, three (3) high schools, Oceanview,
3 Simon Sanchez and Inarajan and six (6) middle schools, Agueda Johnston,
4 Dededo, F.B. Leon Guerrero, Piti, Inarajan and L.P. Untalan came into being;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the demands of the various roles Dr.
7 Aguon has filled as a wife, mother, educator, student, writer, legislator,
8 business person, and dedicated public servant, and despite her retirement
9 from government service at UOG as a full professor in 1992, one (1) concept
10 has always remained constant in Dr. Aguon's resolve, her goal of
11 perpetuating, preserving, and promoting the *Chamorro* language, culture,
12 traditions, and identity for today's generation and those to come; and

13 **WHEREAS**, today, Dr. Aguon completes decades of dedication to
14 ensuring the preservation of the *Chamorro* heritage as the island moves
15 forward in the information age of the twenty-first (21st) century; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Aguon's work with the Department of *Chamorro* Affairs
17 through the *Chamorro* Language Commission's Publication, Planning and
18 Research has created a renewed spirit of island pride and preservation
19 through works such as *Hale'-ta*, a series of Chamorro Heritage books and a
20 host of educational undertakings, and other publications as: *Chamorro*
21 Language and Culture; Let's Chat in *Chamorro*; The Development of the
22 *Chamorro* Costume, The Guam Dilemma; *Chamorro*, A complete Course of
23 Study, Practical *Chamorro*; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dr. Aguon has served with distinction on various boards
2 and commissions, has been honored with a litany of awards including Guam's
3 "Ten Outstanding Women of Government of Guam," and has provided
4 several keynote addresses at Colleges and conventions here and abroad; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ñuebi Na*
7 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend
8 and congratulate Dr. Katherine Bordallo Aguon for her many years of service
9 to Guam; and be it further

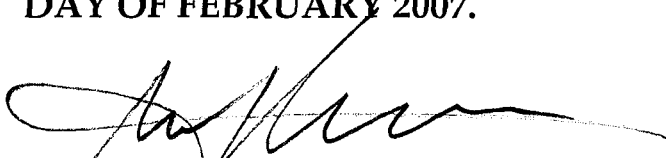
10 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ñuebi Na*
11 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, recognize and thank Dr. Katherine Bordallo
12 Aguon for her lifelong dedication to the perpetuation, preservation, and
13 promotion of the *Chamorro* language, culture, traditions, and identity; and be
14 it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ñuebi Na*
16 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
17 people of Guam, nominate Dr. Katherine Bordallo Aguon to the *Guma Onra*,
18 The Guam Hall of Fame, for her outstanding lifetime contributions to the
19 people of Guam as an educator, Senator, and cultural preservationist;
20 and be it further

21 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive
22 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption
23 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Edward
24 and Dr. Katherine Bordallo Aguon, to each of their eight (8) children; to the

- 1 Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Congresswoman of Guam; and to the
- 2 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF *I MINA'BENTE ÑUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 5TH
DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007.**



MARK FORBES
Speaker and
Chairman, Executive Committee



RAY TENORIO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature