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

Executive Committee Resolution No. 76

Introduced by:

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Relative to supporting Taiwan's entry into the World Health Organization.

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

- WHEREAS, over nine (9) decades ago on October 10, 1911, the Republic of China was founded. The United States of America and the Republic of
- 5 China have been friends and allies for many years. Throughout this time, the
- 6 ties of friendship and the commercial interests of the United States of America
- 7 and the Republic of China have developed into a stronger partnership; and

WHEREAS, the freedom and democracy enjoyed by the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) are clearly demonstrated in the progress and growth of the economy of this great country. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) will observe the Ninety-sixth (96th) Anniversary of the Founding on October 10, 2007. In furthering its commitment to freedom and democracy, Taiwan continues to seek representation in international organizations and the people and the government of Guam support their efforts and entry into the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health; and WHEREAS, the preamble of the World Health Organization (WHO) Constitution states that 'the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition.'

Taiwan and its twenty-three million five hundred thousand (23,500,000) people wish to join the World Health Organization (WHO) as a member. Because health and disease have no borders, it is in the best interest of the human condition that Taiwan be afforded membership in the WHO in order to benefit from information regarding the prevention, monitoring and cure of epidemic diseases, prevention of terrorist bio-chemical attacks, and discussions of global health policies; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia; maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries; the eradication of

1 such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox and the plague; and being the

2 first nation to eradicate polio and provide children with Hepatitis B

3 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, direct and unobstructed participation in international health cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria. Taiwan's population of twenty-three million five hundred thousand (23,500,000) people is greater than that of three-fourths of the member states already in the World Health Organization (WHO). Taiwan's achievements in the field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and the first to eradicate polio and provide children with Hepatitis B vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of public health issues. In recent years, Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by WHO; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registered between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese Government sent two (2) rescue teams, consisting of ninety (90) individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and civil engineering. The Taiwanese

- 1 Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated Two Hundred Thousand Dollars
- 2 (\$200,000) in relief aid to the Salvadoran Government; and
- WHEREAS, the World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950s. The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's participation in appropriate international organizations. U.S. Public Law 106-137 required the Secretary of State to
- 9 submit a report to the Congress on efforts by the executive branch to support
- 10 Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in particular the WHO;
- 11 now, therefore, be it

further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, in light of all benefits that Taiwan's participation in the WHO can bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally, Taiwan and its twenty-three million five hundred thousand (23,500,000) people should have appropriate and meaningful participation in the WHO. As noted in his speech made in the World Medical Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced America's work for a healthy world cuts across political lines. According to Secretary Thompson, the U.S. government supports Taiwan's efforts to gain observership status at the World Health Assembly; and be it

1 **RESOLVED,** that I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby express its support for the people of Taiwan, 2 3 that they deserve the same level of public health as citizens of every nation on 4 earth, and that we support them in their efforts to achieve its objective to become a member of WHO; and be further 5 6 RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive 7 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption 8 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable 9 Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization; to the 10 Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of State, United States of America; to 11 12 the Honorable Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, United 13 States of America; to the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, President, Republic of 14 China (Taiwan); to the Honorable Huang Chih-fang, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan); to the Honorable Sheng-Mou 15 16 Hou, MD, Ph.D., MPH, Minister, Department of Health, Republic of China (Taiwan); to the Honorable James C.Y. Chin, Director General, Taipei 17 Economic and Cultural Office in Guam; to the Honorable Ban ki-moon, 18 19 Secretary General of the United Nations; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. 20 Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress; and to the 21 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 18^{TH} DAY OF MAY 2007.

MARK FORBES

Speaker and

Chairman, Executive Committee

RAY TENORIO

Senator and

Secretary of the Legislature