

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

2008 OCT -2 PM 3:41

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Resolution No. 238/EC

Introduced by:

T. R. Muña-Barnes

J. T. Won Pat

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R. J. Respicio

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1 RELATIVE TO COMMENDING THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF BELAU  
2 (PALAU) IN RECOGNITION AND COMMEMORATION OF THEIR  
3 INDEPENDENCE ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF THE FOURTEENTH  
4 (14<sup>TH</sup>) ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
5 REPUBLIC OF BELAU ON OCTOBER 1, 1994 .

6  
7 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA'BENTE  
8 NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

9  
10 WHEREAS, *Palau*, with an ancient history spanning more than four millennia,  
11 greeted British traders, prominent visitors in the 18th century, followed by  
12 expanding Spanish influence in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century. Following defeat in the Spanish-  
13 American War, Spain, Belau (Palau) and most of the rest of the Caroline Islands then  
14 fell under German control in 1899; and

15 WHEREAS, control then passed to Japan in 1914, when during World War II the  
16 islands were taken by the United States in 1944, with the costly Battle of Peleliu .

1 between September 15 and November 25 with more than 2,000 Americans and  
2 10,000 Japanese killed. The islands passed formally to the United States under  
3 United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;  
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, After three decades as part of the UN Trust Territory of the Pacific  
6 under US administration, this westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands opted for  
7 independence in 1978 rather than join the Federated States of Micronesia and  
8 became the Republic of Belau (Palau) in 1981; and

9 **WHEREAS**, *Belau (Palau)*, adopted a constitutional government in a Compact of Free  
10 Association with the United States being approved in 1986 after eight referendums  
11 and an amendment to the Palauan constitution. The compact was not ratified until  
12 1993, and entered into with the United States on October 1, 1994, which marked Belau's  
13 independence; and

14 **WHEREAS**, The Republic of Palau with its main island Babeldaob (Babelthuap), is  
15 an island nation in the northern Pacific Ocean, located east of the Philippines, and  
16 perched on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge. The westernmost cluster of the Caroline  
17 Islands consists of 20 large islands and 566 smaller islands and is one of the world's  
18 youngest and least populated nations; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the splendor of this tropical wonder of nature, emerald green islands  
20 stretching more than 400 spectacular miles across pristine azure waters, is a Pacific  
21 jewel of limestone coral reefs rising majestically from the sea, undercut by ocean  
22 currents and chiseled by nature and time, creating the stunning, world-famous Rock  
23 Islands of Belau (Palau), a marvel of nature; and

24 **WHEREAS**, *Belau (Palau)*, was named the number one Underwater Wonder of the  
25 World by *Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research (CEDAM)*  
26 *International*, an organization of divers, marine scientists and conservationists.

1 spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral reefs, blue holes, WWII wrecks, hidden  
2 caves and tunnels and over 60 vertical drop-offs are found in Belau where three  
3 major ocean currents meet to create an environment of abundance and enormous  
4 variety of marine life; the waters surrounding the Rock Islands literally teem with  
5 over 1500 varieties of reef and pelagic fish and more than four times the number of  
6 coral species found in the Caribbean; and

7 **WHEREAS**, this tiny nation, a world leader in the global struggle to save our planet,  
8 stands tall among the nations setting new standards for environmental stewardship  
9 and nature conservancy which has contributed enormously towards the progress  
10 the people of Belau, the Traditional Leadership, the Government , and President  
11 Tommy Remengesau, Jr. have made together towards developing a thriving and  
12 prosperous tourism industry and a vibrant future based on cultural integrity and  
13 natural resources; and

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

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan*  
21 *Guåhan* (the 29<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
22 and the people of Guam commend the people of *the Republic of Belau (Palau)* on the  
23 occasion of their 14<sup>th</sup> Independence Day celebrations; and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to,  
25 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to  
26 President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. the Council of Chiefs, and to, Congresswoman

1           Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen*  
2           *Guåhan*.

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

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

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
**Senator and**  
**Secretary of the Legislature**