

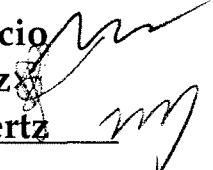
*MINA' BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

EC

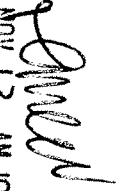
Resolution No. 261 (EC)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio  
B.J.F. Cruz  
J.P. Guthertz



Relative to recognizing Saturday, November 15, 2008 as NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY in Guam, and urging everyone in Guam to join in a national effort to raise awareness about the importance of adoption.

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

**WHEREAS**, the people of Guam recognize the importance of providing permanent, safe and loving families for all children, including finding safe and loving families through adoption; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 130,000 children are currently in our country's foster care system waiting to be adopted, including 196 children in the foster care system of Guam; and

**WHEREAS**, in Guam there are seventeen licensed family foster homes and three group homes, and there are four foster children in off-island placements or in residential treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, children in the foster care system need the nurturing stability that placement with a loving family in a permanent adoptive home can bring; and

**WHEREAS**, these children, who range in age from one to 17 years of age, are anxiously awaiting acceptance and to become the newest member of a loving family; and

**WHEREAS**, children in foster care in Guam are provided with some form of Permanency Placement through Adoption, Guardianship or Long Term Foster Care; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 60 adoption cases are filed and completed in the Superior Court of Guam annually, providing homes for many needful children; and

**WHEREAS**, other children in the foster care system are actively going through the system for eventual direction in their cases which, for some, could also include reunification with their families; and

**WHEREAS**, in Guam, most of our children end up in Permanency Placements with relatives, to remain in Long Term Foster Care status, with their biological parents usually remaining in close and supervised contact at the discretion of caregivers; and

**WHEREAS**, to help these children find permanent, nurturing families, the courts of Guam will open their doors on National Adoption Day, Saturday, November 15, to finalize the adoptions of local children and join other organizations to celebrate all adoptions; and

**WHEREAS**, this effort in Guam, along with similar celebrations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and United States insular areas, will offer

children the chance to live with stable and loving families and encourage other dedicated individuals to make a powerful difference in the lives of children through adoption; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby recognize Saturday, November 15, 2008 as NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY in Guam, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, urges everyone islandwide to join in a national effort to raise awareness about the importance of adoption, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be transmitted to the Honorable Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Guam; to Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, Superior Court of Guam; and to the Governor of Guam.