

I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 67 ^{EC}
(LS)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio 
B. J. Cruz
J. T. WonPat

Relative to recognizing April 2005 as the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Guam Federation of Teachers Union (GFT) and acknowledging, commending and congratulating the GFT and its officers and members for their hard work over the decades to improve education in Guam and protect the rights of many of Guam's working families in many different occupations.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, forty years ago, in April of 1965, a group of dedicated teaching professionals joined together to found the Guam Federation of Teachers (GFT), one of Guam's first unions; and

WHEREAS, starting out with a handful of members, and the intent of protecting the rights of teaching professionals within the Guam Department of Education (DOE), the GFT became Local No. 1581 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), an affiliated international union of the AFL-CIO with more than 3,000 local affiliates nationwide, 43 state affiliates, and more than 1.3 million members; and

WHEREAS, following passage of a collective bargaining law in 1968, the GFT competed against two other organizations and in 1970 was elected to become the exclusive bargaining agent for DOE teachers; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, GFT and DOE began negotiations to work out the first Board-Union contract that would define the employer-employee

1 (1) **Creation.** There is hereby created within the Department of
2 Agriculture of the territory of Guam the Civilian Volunteer Conservation
3 Officer Reserve, which shall be headed by the Director of Agriculture,
4 hereafter referred to as the Director. The Director, subject to the advice and
5 control of the Governor, shall be responsible for carrying out the purpose of
6 this Chapter and shall have such additional duties and responsibilities as are
7 authorized herein, or as may be prescribed by the Governor.

8 (2) **Functions and Duties.** The general function and duties of the Civilian
9 Volunteer Conservation Officer Reserve shall be to provide backup manpower
10 for the suppression of fish and wildlife crime, preservation of law and order
11 and to assist in civil emergencies. The Director shall formulate a program
12 whereby the Civilian Volunteer Conservation Officer Reserve shall adhere to
13 the functions and duties herein prescribed. From time to time the Director
14 shall review and revise the functions and duties of the Civilian Volunteer
15 Conservation Officer Reserve to insure an amicable discharge of
16 responsibilities and duties knowing the fact that their roles are the extension of
17 duties of the regular personnel.

18 (3) **Recruitment.** The Director shall recruit on an entirely volunteer basis,
19 local residents who desire to make available their services to assist the
20 Department of Agriculture in carrying out its law enforcement duties and
21 emergency functions. The Director shall further promulgate rules and
22 regulations consistent with requirements of hiring regular Conservation
23 Officers.

24 (4) **Training, Equipment and Maintenance of Records.** The Director
25 shall devise a program whereby the Law Enforcement Section in the Division
26 of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources of the Department of Agriculture and the
27 Civil Defense Office provide the members of the Civilian Volunteer
28 Conservation Officer Reserve training in crime prevention and operational
29 techniques and procedures for natural and man made emergencies. Volunteers
30 who are peace officers or who can otherwise prove they have completed an
31 equivalent "law enforcement training" are exempted from this requirement.

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arrangement between the government and the union and serve as the basis for every Board-Union contract ratified over the past 35 years, affecting the lives of thousands of teachers and hundreds of thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, the original contract contained a number of landmark provisions for Guam teachers including class size maximums; allowing the Chamorro language into schools; establishing Committees to facilitate joint decision making on curriculum, textbooks, the annual calendar, and other items; and creating school aide positions by eliminating non-professional duties for teachers; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 GFT admitted their first non-teaching professionals, the school bus drivers, making GFT one of the first AFT locals to have non-teaching professionals as members, later organizing and negotiating contracts for cafeteria workers, school aides, maintenance workers and others including workers at the Port Authority of Guam; and

WHEREAS, GFT has proven itself willing to go to great lengths to protect the rights of workers and to secure the pay and benefits its membership deserves, including calling a strike against the Government of Guam in 1981 primarily as a protest against salary increases for elected officials but not for teachers; and

WHEREAS, although the strike may not have achieved its desired results, it has raised the awareness of elected island leaders and made them more open minded concerning pay and benefits for educators; and

WHEREAS, today the GFT has added representation for such diverse employee groups as those from the Mayors Council, Guam Waterworks Authority and the Guam Energy Office, the message of solidarity reaching more than 1,500 workers, and

WHEREAS, membership in GFT also provides numerous benefits available only to union members, and these benefits have increased as GFT

has grown, and includes discounts from a number of businesses as varied as a cellphone business, a fitness centers and a gasoline company, as well as access to health insurance and other types of insurance coverage, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the benefits to the Guam education system and the working people of Guam that have been provided by the Guam Federation of Teachers, and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, extends its most sincere and heartfelt commendation and congratulations to the Guam Federation of Teachers on their 40 years of solidarity with the working people of Guam, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Matt Rector, President of the Guam Federation of Teachers, to Edward J. McElroy, President of the American Federation of Teachers, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.