

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

Resolution No. 97(LS)

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorio 
M. Cruz 
L.F. Kasperbauer 

Relative to observing the month of October 2005 as 'Down Syndrome Awareness Month' with programs and activities coordinated by the Down Syndrome Association of Guam and recognizing their efforts by expressing the admiration and support of the people of Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Down syndrome is the most common congenital cause of developmental delays, affecting one in every seven hundred to one thousand babies born each year; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that, as recently as the past twenty years, people with Down syndrome were stigmatized or—all too frequently—institutionalized but are now benefiting from important advances in research, education, and health care; and

WHEREAS, individuals with Down syndrome prosper from loving homes, special education, advances in medical care, and positive public attitudes resulting from the vision, care and hard work of their families, researchers, service-providers, physicians, teachers, parent support groups,

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and members of private voluntary organizations, such as the National Down Syndrome Congress and the National Down Syndrome Society; and

WHEREAS, these same individuals and organizations, working with government agencies, help to affirm the natural abilities and worth of persons with Down syndrome and are increasingly able to furnish information and support to parents that they need to cope with the often unique challenges of rearing a child with Down syndrome; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with Down syndrome are both determined and able to lead active, productive lives possible in part from early intervention and main-streaming, as well as improved treatment of Down syndrome-related physical health problems; and

WHEREAS, ever more people with this developmental disability are joining in the exciting process of learning and discovery through special classes and are also employed, working to achieve their full potential as underscored by performances from actors with Down syndrome in recent television broadcasts that help to dispel myths and misconceptions about this disorder; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of organizations has come forward, joining forces to help promote a greater understanding of Down syndrome, including the Down Syndrome Association of Guam; the Guam Legal Services Corporation; and *Guma' Mami*, Inc., and to provide crisis counseling, legal representation, education, outreach, child and adult protection, as well as vital medical services to persons with Down syndrome; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize the month of October 2005 as "Down Syndrome Awareness Month," and urges all citizens to actively participate in promoting greater understanding of Down syndrome; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* further commends practitioners who help raise awareness and support persons with Down syndrome and their families and recognizes the significant contributions these individuals and organizations have made, and continue to make, in efforts to help persons with Down syndrome lead active, productive lives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and Chairman of the Executive Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislative attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to: Down Syndrome Association of Guam; Guam Legal Services Corporation; *Guma Mami, Inc.*; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE _____ DAY OF OCTOBER 2005.

Senator Mark Forbes
Speaker
Executive Committee Chairman

Senator Edward B. Calvo
Secretary of the Legislature