

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

**Resolution No. 62 (EC)**

As amended.

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio  
B. J.F. Cruz  
J. T. Won Pat \_\_\_\_\_  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
J. M.S. Brown  
Edward J.B. Calvo  
Mike Cruz  
Mark Forbes  
L. F. Kasperbauer  
R. Klitzkie  
L. A. Leon Guerrero  
J. A. Lujan  
A. B. Palacios  
Ray Tenorio  
A. R. Unpingco

**Relative to recognizing April 2005 as the 40<sup>th</sup> 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 its 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.**

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

3        **WHEREAS**, forty (40) years ago, in April of 1965, a group of dedicated  
4 teaching professionals joined together to found the Guam Federation of  
5 Teachers Union (GFT), one of Guam's first unions; and

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

8           **WHEREAS**, following passage of a collective bargaining law in 1968,  
9 the GFT competed against two (2) other organizations, and in 1970, was  
10 elected to become the exclusive bargaining agent for DOE teachers; and

11           **WHEREAS**, in 1970, GFT and DOE began negotiations to work out the  
12 first Board-Union contract that would define the employer-employee  
13 arrangement between the government and the union and serve as the basis for  
14 every Board-Union contract ratified over the past (35) years, affecting the lives  
15 of thousands of teachers and hundreds of thousands of students; and

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

22           **WHEREAS**, in 1972, GFT admitted their first non-teaching  
23 professionals, the school bus drivers, making GFT one of the first AFT locals  
24 to have non-teaching professionals as members, later organizing and

1 negotiating contracts for cafeteria workers, school aides, maintenance workers  
2 and others including workers at the Port Authority of Guam; and

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

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

11       **WHEREAS**, today the GFT has added representation for such diverse  
12 employee groups as those from the Mayors Council, Guam Waterworks  
13 Authority and the Guam Energy Office, the message of solidarity reaching  
14 more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) workers; and

15       **WHEREAS**, membership in GFT also provides numerous benefits  
16 available only to union members, and these benefits have increased as GFT  
17 has grown, and includes discounts from a number of businesses as varied as a  
18 cellphone business, a fitness centers and a gasoline company, as well as access  
19 to health insurance and other types of insurance coverage; now, therefore, be  
20 it

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

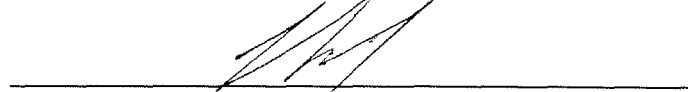
1           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of  
2 the people of Guam, extends its most sincere and heartfelt commendation and  
3 congratulations to the Guam Federation of Teachers on its forty (40) years of  
4 solidarity with the working people of Guam; and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

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

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA  
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2005.**



**MARK FORBES**  
Speaker



**EDWARD J.B. CALVO**  
Senator and Secretary of the Legislature