

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

2008 MAR 21 PM 1:51

Resolution No. 142 (LS)

Introduced by:

B.J.F. Cruz
R.J. Respicio
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Relative to recognizing and congratulating the *Taotao Tano'* Cultural Dancers, the first and most successful of Guam's cultural performing artists, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary; and to offer a very special *Saina Ma'ase'* to Master of Chamorro Dance Francisco B. Rabon for his quarter of a century as the Director and Choreographer of the *Taotao Tano'* Cultural Dancers, and also for his tireless efforts to impart his knowledge of ancient Chamorro practices and way of life to the youth of Guam in order to promote and preserve the Chamorro culture.

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

3 WHEREAS, the month of March has traditionally be acknowledged
4 to be "Chamorro Month," in which the people of Guam celebrate the
5 culture, language, arts and history of the indigenous people of the
6 Marianas; and

7 WHEREAS, March 2008 is especially significant because it is also the
8 25th Anniversary of the creation of *Taotao Tano'*, Guam's first successful
9 Chamorro dance group and among Guam's most well known cultural
10 performing artists; and

11 WHEREAS, *Taotao Tano'* was originally formed 25 years ago in
12 March of 1983, for the purpose of providing professional entertainment for

1 residents and visitors who were seeking cultural activities than were not
2 otherwise available; and

3 **WHEREAS,** *Taotao Tano'* began as performers of cultural dances of
4 the Pacific region, occasionally performing Chamorro dances with Spanish
5 and contemporary influences, as little documentation and information
6 existed on traditional Chamorro dances, chants and ceremonies; and

7 **WHEREAS,** the director of *Taotao Tano'* was, and continues to be,
8 Francisco B. Rabon, who has been recognized by the Guam Council on the
9 Arts and Humanities Agency as a Master of Chamorro Dance, and *Señot*
10 Rabon has endeavored over the years to gather and research information
11 and history on the lifestyles of the Chamorro people and redevelop dances
12 based on the peoples and tribes from which the Chamorros descended; and

13 **WHEREAS,** *Señot* Rabon found direction and encouragement from
14 former Speaker and Guam statesman Carlos Taitano, who provided a
15 wealth of information about Chamorro life and history that he had
16 collected throughout his travels from museums, libraries, galleries, catholic
17 archives, and Jesuit manuscripts; and

18 **WHEREAS,** with this assistance from Speaker Taitano, *Señot* Rabon
19 developed a program for Guam's delegation to the 4th Festival of the
20 Pacific Arts, in Noumea, New Caledonia and changed the direction of
21 *Taotao Tano'* from being performers of primarily Polynesian dances and
22 others of the Pacific region, to a group performing re-created pre-contact
23 Chamorro dances; and

24 **WHEREAS,** among the re-created dances are *Bailan Urritao*, the
25 Dance of the Bachelors - a dance depicting the strength, agility, and
26 coordination's of the young men; and *Bailan Linala*, the Dance of Life -
27 women's cycle of life dance depicting the importance of women in a
28 matrilineal society; and *Bailan Galaide*, the Dance of the Canoes - a dance

1 showing how we traveled and populated other islands, as well as the
2 skilled craftsmanship of our ancestors; and others; and

3 **WHEREAS**, over the years, *Taotao Tano'* has continued to compose
4 and develop songs, chants, and ceremonies honoring our mythological
5 gods *Fu'una yan Puntan*, our fire god *Chaife*, our ancestral elders *Guello yan*
6 *Guella*, our spiritual leader *Makana*, and our *Suruhana*; and

7 **WHEREAS**, *Taotao Tano'* and *Señot Rabon* has also created chants,
8 songs and dances to welcome our visitors to our island and bid them
9 farewell in a ceremonial way, and they have been called upon by Guam
10 government officials to represent our island both locally and
11 internationally and have also performed ceremonial chants for
12 groundbreaking, grand opening, unveiling, and funeral services
13 throughout our island; and

14 **WHEREAS**, *Taotao Tano'* will continue in its efforts to perpetuate the
15 living culture of the Chamorros and preserve the traditions for future
16 generations, and educate our youth in the usage of the Chamorro language;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
19 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and congratulate the
20 *Taotao Tano'* Cultural Dancers, the first and most successful of Guam's
21 cultural performing artists, on the occasion of their 25th anniversary; and
22 be it further

23 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
24 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize, congratulate and offer
25 a very special *Saina Ma'ase'* to Master of Chamorro Dance Francisco B.
26 *Rabon* for his quarter of a century as the Director and Choreographer of the
27 *Taotao Tano'* Cultural Dancers, and also for his tireless efforts to impart his
28 knowledge of ancient Chamorro practices and way of life to the youth of

1 Guam in order to promote and preserve the Chamorro culture; and be it
2 further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Secretary of the Legislature
4 attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter
5 transmitted to Master of Chamorro Dance Francisco B. Rabon, Director and
6 Choreographer of *Taotao Tano'*; to Patrick Bamba, Acting Executive Director
7 of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency; to Gerry Perez,
8 General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau; and to the Honorable Felix
9 P. Camacho, *I Maga'láhen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS DAY OF MARCH 2008.**