

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

2008 APR -8 PM 1:47 open

Resolution No. 145 (EC)

Introduced by:

F. F. Blas, Jr. *FB*

**Relative to supporting Taiwan's entry into the World
Health Organization.**

BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Ninety-seven years ago on October 10, 1911, the Republic of China was founded. The United States of America and the Republic of China have been friends and allies for many years. Throughout this time the ties of friendship and the commercial interests of the United States of America and the Republic of China have developed into a stronger partnership; and

WHEREAS, the freedom and democracy enjoyed by the people of the Republic of China (Taiwan) are clearly demonstrated in the progress and growth of the economy of this great country. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) will observe the 97th Anniversary of the Founding on October 10, 2008. In furthering its commitment to freedom and democracy Taiwan continues to seek representation in international organizations and the people and the government of Guam support their efforts and entry into the United Nations and the World Health Organization. Good health is important to every citizen of the world and access to the highest standards of health information and services is necessary to improve the public health; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the preamble of the World Health Organization (WHO)
2 Constitution states that ‘the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is
3 one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race,
4 religion, political belief, economic or social condition. Taiwan and its twenty-three
5 million five hundred thousand (23,500,000) people wish to join the World Health
6 Organization (WHO) as a member. Because health and disease have no borders, it is
7 in the best interest of the human condition that Taiwan be afforded membership in the
8 WHO in order to benefit from information regarding the prevention, monitoring and
9 cure of epidemic diseases, prevention of terrorist bio-chemical attacks, and
10 discussions of global health policies; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Taiwan’s achievements in the field of health are substantial,
12 including one of the highest life expectancy levels in Asia; maternal and infant
13 mortality rates comparable to those of western countries; the eradication of such
14 infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox and the plague; and being the first nation to
15 eradicate polio and provide children with Hepatitis B vaccinations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, direct and unobstructed participation in international health
17 cooperation forums and programs is beneficial for all parts of the world, especially
18 with today's greater potential for the cross-border spread of various infectious diseases
19 such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuberculosis, and malaria. Taiwan's
20 population of 23,500,000 people is greater than that of three-fourths of the member
21 states already in the World Health Organization (WHO). Taiwan's achievements in the
22 field of health are substantial, including one of the highest life expectancy levels in
23 Asia, maternal and infant mortality rates comparable to those of western countries, the
24 eradication of such infectious diseases as cholera, smallpox, and the plague, and the
25 first to eradicate polio and provide children with hepatitis B vaccinations; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
27 its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of

1 public health issues. In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist
2 financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the
3 WHO; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2001, an earthquake, registering between 7.6 and
5 7.9 on the Richter scale, struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese Government
6 sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 individuals specializing in firefighting, medicine,
7 and civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also donated
8 \$200,000 in relief aid to the Salvadoran Government; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Assembly has allowed observers to participate
10 in the activities of the organization, including the Palestine Liberation Organization in
11 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See in the early 1950s. The United States, in
12 the 1994 Taiwan Policy Review, declared its intention to support Taiwan's
13 participation in appropriate international organizations. U.S. Public Law 106-137
14 required the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Congress on efforts by the
15 executive branch to support Taiwan's participation in international organizations, in
16 particular the WHO; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
18 the people of Guam, in light of all benefits that Taiwan's participation in the WHO can
19 bring to the state of health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and globally,
20 Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should have appropriate and meaningful
21 participation in the WHO. As noted in his speech made in the World Medical
22 Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy
23 Thompson announced America's work for a healthy world cuts across political lines.
24 According to Secretary Thompson, the U.S. government supports Taiwan's efforts to
25 gain observership status at the World Health Assembly; and be it further

26 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
27 the people of Guam, does hereby express its support for the people of Taiwan, that

1 they deserve the same level of public health as citizens of every nation on earth, and
2 that we support them in their efforts to achieve its objective to become a member of
3 WHO; and be further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify to and the Secretary of the Legislature
5 attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to
6 the Honorable Margaret Chan, Director General, World Health Organization; to the
7 Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; to the
8 Honorable Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of State, United States of America; to the
9 Honorable Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services, United States of
10 America; to the Honorable Chen Shui-bian, President, Republic of China (Taiwan); to
11 the Honorable Huang Chih-fang, Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of
12 China (Taiwan); to the Honorable Sheng-Mou Hou, MD, Ph.D., MPH, Minister,
13 Department of Health, Republic of China (Taiwan); to the Honorable James C.Y.
14 Chin, Director General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam; to the
15 Honorable Ban ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations; to the Honorable
16 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress and to the
17 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.