

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

Resolution No. 199 (LS)

Introduced by:

J.P. Guthertz  
R.J. Respicio  
B.J.F. Cruz

Relative to endorsing the strategic development plan for the establishment of the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future, an administrative, research and development center for the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit, and the Micronesian Presidents' Summits.

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

3           WHEREAS, the United States Affiliated Islands of Micronesia are  
4 experiencing a period of rapid growth, urbanization, westernization, and  
5 increasing significance to national security; and

6           WHEREAS, in response to common challenges unique to small island  
7 developing states, and given the extraordinary opportunities within the region  
8 to preserve, leverage and integrate indigenous, natural, and human resource  
9 systems and to establish processes of collaborative governance, the member  
10 States have established two (2) sub-regional Chief Executive Summits: the  
11 Western Micronesia Chief Executives' Summit (WMCES) and the Presidents'  
12 Summit; and

13           WHEREAS, the WMCES is composed of the Chief Executives from the  
14 territory of Guam; the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the  
15 Republic of Palau; the State of Yap, within the Federated States of Micronesia;  
16 the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and recently, the Federated States of  
17 Micronesia, and now the WMCES will be known as the Micronesian Chief  
18 Executive Summit (MCES) to reflect that its membership encompasses all of  
19 the Micronesian Insular Affairs areas; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Presidents' Summit is composed of the Chief Executives  
2 of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the  
3 Federated States of Micronesia; and

4           **WHEREAS**, it has been the shared goal of these entities to create  
5 mechanisms that will develop and implement regional solutions to regional  
6 problems by harnessing expertise and resources from both within Micronesia  
7 and from external parties holding a positive interest in Micronesia's future;  
8 and

9           **WHEREAS**, to achieve this goal, during the past five (5) years, the two (2)  
10 Summits have met bi-annually and have issued a series of joint communiqués  
11 to form a Micronesian Center for Sustainable Development; and

12           **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* has conveyed its  
13 full support in Resolution No. 140 (LS) for the work of the Micronesia Chief  
14 Executives' Summit (MCES) and the Micronesian Presidents' Summit (MPS) in  
15 establishing this institution; and

16           **WHEREAS**, under the direction of the Secretary General of the MCSF, a  
17 strategic development plan has been prepared to lay out the organizational  
18 structure, strategic direction, and action plan for the Micronesian Center for  
19 Sustainable Development; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the Strategic Design and Planning Team (SDPT) appointed  
21 by the Secretary General should now be know as the Special Representatives  
22 of the Secretary General (SRSG) and should be charged with the responsibility  
23 of raising funds from the international community in and also be responsible  
24 for implementing the strategic development plan; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the strategic development plan delineates a specific course of  
26 action to develop the organizational capacities of the Center to serve the needs  
27 of the communities represented in the MCES including conducting a  
28 comprehensive socio-economic analysis of the region; the establishment of  
29 information portals to facilitate inter-island communication and access to

1 information; and the development of grant writing and fundraising  
2 capabilities; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the strategic development plan provides for the involvement  
4 of the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future in supporting and  
5 executing key programs of the MCES including the Micronesia Challenge  
6 which has the objective of conserving at 30% of near shore marine and 20% of  
7 the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020; the Pacific Islands Regional  
8 Recycling Initiative Council (PIRRIC) which focuses on environmental and  
9 solid waste issues in Micronesia; the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species  
10 Council which combats the threat of invasive species and the restoration of  
11 natural eco-systems; the establishment of a regional energy initiatives to  
12 address the rising cost of fossil fuels and the development of alternative  
13 energy solutions; and the MCES Tourism Committee including the  
14 implementation of a Regional Tourism Development Plan; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the strategic development plan further specifies that  
16 Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future will actively engage in several  
17 telecommunications initiatives in such areas as telemedicine to enhance  
18 accessible health care, regional distance learning to expand educational  
19 opportunities, and infrastructure upgrades such as submarine fiber-optic cable  
20 to improve access to high-speed telecommunications; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future as provided  
22 for in the draft business plan, will also implement, for the region, specific  
23 Cultural and Historic Resource initiatives to support research in Micronesian  
24 heritage and history; regional festivals for traditional performing arts; training  
25 in meaningful translations of indigenous languages; academic conferences on  
26 Micronesian issues; inter-island field schools by academic institutions;  
27 internships in the fields of historic preservation and museum studies; as well  
28 as support for historic and cultural preservation efforts at all levels of  
29 government; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the strategic development plan also provides that by  
2 utilizing the planned informational portals, regional and international  
3 contacts, and resource base, the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future  
4 will serve as a strategic think tank for sustainable development for the  
5 Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, the Micronesian Presidents' Summit  
6 and the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the strategic development plan further provides that the  
8 Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future will develop a broad and deep  
9 strategic alliance with the University of Guam; in the operation of the planned  
10 information portals, the establishment of Micronesian Center for a Sustainable  
11 Future Research Fellows Program; and

12           **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that this  
13 effort by the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit and the Micronesian  
14 Presidents' Summits to establish the Micronesia Center for Sustainable Future  
15 is worthy of both commendation and support by the people of Guam; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Development, as  
17 delineated in the strategic development plan, will greatly benefit the people of  
18 Guam and the member states of the MCES and MPA; and

19           **WHEREAS**, the recent crisis in financial markets has demonstrated the  
20 serious need to remain cognizant of external factors that impact the people of  
21 Micronesia, the development of realistic strategies for the island communities  
22 to address these impacts, has emerged as a key concern of the Chief  
23 Executives; and

24           **WHEREAS**, the Member States are largely shielded from the most  
25 immediate effects of the crisis, there are several adverse consequences that can  
26 be foreseen over the long term including a decline in tourism. As new  
27 dynamics emerge in the global economy, the MCSF will play a central role in  
28 developing innovative options for policy; and

29           **WHEREAS**, as new challenges and opportunities emerge, the MCSF will  
30 continue to refine and deepen its approach to developing innovative and

1 imaginative responses and solutions to creating the future. It is for this reason  
2 that this Strategic Development Plan remains – a living document; and

3 **WHEREAS**, with respect to Guam specifically the work of the  
4 Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Development will help effectuate  
5 solutions to our island’s environmental, social, and economic problems; and  
6 provide vitally needed resources for the University of Guam; and provide  
7 important access to expertise and resources to meet public policy goals;

8 **WHEREAS**, the Chief Executive of Micronesia, aware of the significance  
9 of this historical moment and the lessons learned from the ravages of war and  
10 the ways of the past, envision an independent and sustainable future for all of  
11 the people of Micronesia – this vision a gift that they will be proud to leave to  
12 generations yet unborn now, therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
14 on behalf of the people of Guam, convey its full endorsement of the strategic  
15 development plan for the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future; and be  
16 it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
18 on behalf of the people of Guam, respectfully urge the Micronesian Presidents’  
19 Summit and Micronesian Chief Executives’ Summit, gathered on the stone  
20 altar of Pohnpei in the presence of the holy city of Nan Madol, to adopt the  
21 strategic development plan for the MCSF and to relentlessly pursue this  
22 initiative which will be of enormous benefit to all the people of Micronesia;  
23 and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature  
25 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter  
26 transmitted to each of the members of the Western Council of Micronesian  
27 Chief Executives and the Micronesian Presidents’ Summits; to the Honorable  
28 Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; to the legislative  
29 presiding officers of all member states of the Association of Pacific Island  
30 Legislatures; to the Chair of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; to the

1 Office of the Guam Delegate to U.S. House of Representatives; to the Staff  
2 Director of the House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs; to the President of the  
3 University of Guam; to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Alliance of  
4 Small Island States; to the Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region Nine; to  
5 the co-chairs of the White House Interagency Work Group of the Freely  
6 Associated States (IWGFAS); to the co-chairs and members of the White House  
7 Interagency Group of Insular Affairs (IGIA); to the Deputy Assistant Secretary  
8 of the Interior for Insular Affairs; to the Secretariat of the Global Programme of  
9 Action (GPA); to the Executive Director and Chairman of the Global  
10 Environmental Facility (GEF); and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*  
11 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan.*