

MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2007 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 32 (LS)

Introduced by:

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Edm

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

BE IT RESOLVED BY I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, over Nine decades 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 96th Anniversary of the Founding on October 10, 2007. 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

WHEREAS, the preamble of the World Health Organization (WHO) Constitution states that 'the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is

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

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
25 its Taiwan counterpart agencies have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide range of
26 public health issues. In recent years Taiwan has expressed a willingness to assist

1 financially and technically in international aid and health activities supported by the
2 WHO; and

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

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

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

25 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
26 the people of Guam, does hereby express its support for the people of Taiwan, that
27 they deserve the same level of public health as citizens of every nation on earth, and

1 that we support them in their efforts to achieve its objective to become a member of
2 WHO; and be further

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