

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

Resolution No. 171 (EC)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

James V. Espaldon
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
B. J.F. Cruz
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Edward J.B. Calvo
Mark Forbes
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
Frank T. Ishizaki
J. A. Lujan
A. B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Dr. David L.G. Shimizu
Ray Tenorio
J. T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to endorsing and supporting the Department of Chamorro Affairs and the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities Agency in their efforts to secure Guam's bid to host the Twelfth (12th) Festival of Pacific Arts in 2016.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), which is the
4 equivalent of the Olympics of Cultural Arts, was conceived by the Conference
5 of the South Pacific Commission (now the Pacific Community) in an attempt
6 to combat the erosion of traditional customary practices. The Festival of

1 Pacific Arts grew out of the desire, expressed by Pacific Island leaders, for the
2 peoples of the region to share their cultures and establish deeper
3 understanding and friendship between countries; and

4 **WHEREAS**, beginning in 1972, delegations from the various Pacific
5 Island Countries and territories have come together every four (4) years to
6 share and exchange their culture at the Festival of Pacific Arts. Today's
7 twenty-seven (27) participating countries and territories include: American
8 Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia,
9 Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New
10 Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands,
11 Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau,
12 Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and Guam, with the number of
13 participants exceeding more than two thousand (2,000) people; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Festival of Pacific Arts is recognized as a major
15 international cultural event, and is the largest gathering in which Pacific
16 peoples unite to gain respect for and appreciation of one another within the
17 context of the changing Pacific; and

18 **WHEREAS**, trade, social visits and exchanges of dance, music, food and
19 crafts have served as opportunities for islanders to learn from one another,
20 and have assisted in the dynamic transformation of culture. Today, the
21 Festival of Pacific Arts helps maintain a sense of place among island
22 communities: awareness that, although a group of people may reside on tiny
23 atolls far from island neighbors, they are part of a greater Pacific-wide culture.
24 Recognition of a common Pacific identity can be a strong motivating force for

1 individual communities to revive and cherish their own traditional forms of
2 cultural expression; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Pacific Islanders were traditionally raised in an
4 environment that taught them their local language, history and traditional
5 knowledge and skills, but many ways of passing on these traditions and skills
6 are disappearing. A realization of what has been missing in the more
7 Westernized island cultures is one of the reasons young islanders train long
8 and hard for each Festival, seeking to uncover the secrets of ancient music and
9 chants, costumes, body art and language. To be selected as part of an island's
10 delegation to the Festival is a great honor. The Festivals have no
11 competitions, and performers do not seek to compete with one another, but
12 the Festival has stimulated a new sense of cultural pride among islander's
13 young and old, generating excitement, pride and promise for the arts and
14 cultures in the region. It enables young contemporary artists and performers
15 to express themselves and their talent and helps to bridge the gap between
16 traditional cultural expressions and the aspirations of our youth; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Festival of Pacific Arts makes a significant contribution
18 to the evolution of Pacific Island identities. For the region, the Festival of
19 Pacific Arts promotes unity by encouraging mutual appreciation and respect
20 for one another's cultures. It also improves political and economic stability by
21 developing a deeper sense of solidarity and unites the geographically isolated
22 Pacific Island countries and territories, facilitating inter-regional
23 communication; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Festival is also an important instrument in the
2 preservation of the performing and production skills underlying the broad
3 variety of cultural expressions in the Pacific. Expertise and skills in crafts
4 have been rediscovered and revitalized, while traditional and ceremonial
5 performances have been rediscovered, revived and, in some cases, updated.
6 Tourism and related industries have also benefited, with the proceeds often
7 going to local communities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, each Festival attracts increasing numbers of spectators and
9 visitors from within the region itself, and it also draws the attention of the
10 global community, to the point that the Festival has become a major tourist
11 attraction. Today, the Festival is the principal platform for collective
12 participation in expressions of traditional and contemporary culture in the
13 Pacific region; and

14 **WHEREAS**, hosting the Twelfth (12th) Festival of Pacific Arts will be one
15 of Guam's major cultural, technical, and economic challenges, requiring broad
16 community participation and cooperation. The Festival will also provide
17 tremendous opportunities for social and cultural exchanges especially with
18 the exposure of local products, all of which can be used to enhance tourism
19 within the host country; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the *Chamorro* people have seen a cultural revival over the
21 past decade, as evidenced by the many organizations involved in the
22 performing arts. The *Dinana Minagof* competition is a prime example of an
23 annual island-wide competition and display of Guam's performing artists that
24 helps to foster the *Chamorro* cultural revival. Additionally, the number of

1 *Chamorro* visual artists has also grown, with more and more young men and
2 women learning the arts of carving, *galaide* building, weaving, etc.; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam will see an increase in its population in excess of
4 twenty-five (25,000) new residents by 2015, primarily due to the movement of
5 Marines and their dependents to Guam. Hosting the Twelfth (12th) Festival of
6 Pacific Arts will provide an opportunity to educate newcomers of the
7 significance of the Pacific region's cultures, especially that of the *Chamorros*;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, the General Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau, together
10 with the Executive Director of the Guam Council on the Arts and Humanities
11 Agency, the President of the Department of *Chamorro* Affairs, the President of
12 the Guam Chamber of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Guam Museum
13 Foundation, are herein directed to assess all options to construct a Performing
14 Arts Center, Cultural Center, Guam Museum, and Convention Center to be
15 available for use prior to FESTPAC 2016. These plans *shall* be presented to *I*
16 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan* and the Speaker of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* no later than
17 January 15, 2010. These plans *shall* include cost-estimates and identification of
18 potential public and private funding sources to pay for these facilities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the history of the Festival of Pacific Arts, Guam has yet
20 to serve as a host nation. By hosting the Twelfth (12th) Festival of Pacific Arts
21 in 2016, it will be an opportune time for the people of Guam to involve and
22 educate the thousands of newcomers to our island about who we are as
23 *Chamorros*, coupled with the uniqueness of our culture as Pacific Islanders and

1 the importance of maintaining, perpetuating and respecting our cultural
2 identity; now, therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does
4 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, petition the Secretariat of the Pacific
5 Community to grant Guam the rights to host the Twelfth (12th) Festival of
6 Pacific Arts in 2016; and be it further

7 **RESOLVED**, that upon acceptance of Guam's invitation to host the
8 Twelfth (12th) Festival of Pacific Arts in 2016, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*, the
9 Governor of Guam, *shall* convene the Festival Organizing Committee for the
10 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts. The Organizing Committee will bring together
11 Guam's performing and visual artist groups, government agencies, and civic
12 and professional groups dedicated to the organization of such an event and
13 the perpetuation of Guam's culture and language; and *shall* also consist of two
14 (2) Members of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, to be appointed by the Speaker, two (2)
15 representatives of the Mayors Council, one (1) representative each from the
16 University of Guam, Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam Community College, and
17 the Guam Public School System, to be appointed by the heads of those
18 institutions; and be it further

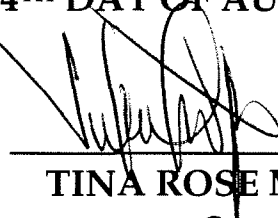
19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
20 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
21 thereafter transmitted to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Dr. Jimmie
22 Rodgers, Senior Deputy Director-General; to Mr. Yves Corbel, Deputy
23 Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community; to the President of the
24 Guam Chamber of Commerce; to the President of the Department of *Chamorro*

1 Affairs; to the Executive Director of the Guam Council on the Arts and
2 Humanities Agency; to the Honorable Jose T. Terlaje, President of the Mayors
3 Council of Guam; to the Chairman of the Guam Museum Foundation; to the
4 Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Delegate to the United States
5 Congress; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 14TH DAY OF AUGUST 2008.**



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D.
Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature