

Resolution No. 2 (EC)

As amended

Introduced by:

A.R. Unpingco 

Relative to congratulating the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association (GHRA) on its Thirty-fifth (35th) Anniversary and to recognizing its contributions to Guam's Visitor Industry.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE ÑUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

WHEREAS, on August 28, 1972, a small group of hoteliers filed Articles of Incorporation with the Department of Revenue and Taxation to establish a new corporation to be known as the Guam Hotel Association, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, the six-member board representing the Guam Hilton Hotel, The Cliff Hotel, the Guam Dai-Ichi Hotel, the Okura Hotel, the Fujita Guam Tumon Beach Hotel, and the Reef Hotel, amended its by-laws to include restaurants and renamed it the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 10-166 authorized the collection of an excise tax known today as the "Hotel Occupancy Tax"; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, the Association established the US Department of Labor Apprenticeship Program in cooperation with the Guam Community College; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, the Pacific Hotel & Restaurant Exposition (PHARE) event was born and continues to be Micronesia's leading annual trade show promoting and showcasing products and services that cater to the hotel and restaurant industry, with proceeds supporting the scholarship fund and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Association began to host an annual New Year's eve fireworks show for the enjoyment and entertainment of visiting guests and the local community; and

WHEREAS, in 1992, the Association once again revised its by-laws, adopting the following mission statement representing the philosophy of the Association's membership: "The Guam Hotel and Restaurant association will strive to be an active corporate citizen in the community and work with others to improve the overall quality of life in the Island of Guam"; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, the Association began to celebrate "International Housekeepers Week" and "International Housekeepers Day" in the month of September, where the common mission of the GHRA's Executive Housekeeping Committee and its housekeeping employees is to make Guam a key destination for tourists and to provide the best standards in hygiene, friendliness and courteousness among staff for guest retention; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Association published the Hospitality Guahan quarterly industry magazine and monthly community newsletter; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Association began to host an annual GALA with proceeds supporting the scholarship fund; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, the Association officially launched its webpage with web address www.ghra.org.gu which is now www.ghra.org; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Association began to host an annual Pastries in Paradise event with proceeds supporting the Guam chapter of the Lend-A-Hand Foundation, a local non-profit organization that assists local residents in times of critical need; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Association began to host an annual Jingle Bell (5k) Run and Walk event highlighting the approach of the holiday season with proceeds supporting the scholarship fund and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Association began to host an annual Progressive Dinner for the membership to promote quality services provided in the industry; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the Association in collaboration with the Guam Community College began a partnership with Aso College, Fukuoka, Japan of an Internship Program where Japanese students from the college participated in a 12 or 18 month internship with participation hotel members and a Yoka Yoka Scholarship Program where hospitality employees from Guam visit Fukuoka on a weeklong exchange to experience the culture and tradition; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the GHRA Safety and Security Committee inaugurated its Crime Against Tumon Tourists Channel program and the Citizen's Watch Bike Control; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the annual PHARE event included a travel show promoting destinations in the region; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Association began to host an annual Governor's Tourism Cup Championship with proceeds supporting the Guam Police and Fire Departments and other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Association began to host an annual Job Fair to recruit employment to fill vacancies in the hospitality industry; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Association expanded the PHARE event to include the Prime Vendors for the military and the Micronesian Chef's Association and GCC Culinary Arts Academy for the culinary competitions to the annual trade show; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Association will lead the tourism commerce private sector working group for the bi-annual Top Officials Exercise; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Association developed a public service announcement campaign to publicize the value and benefits of the industry to the island; and

WHEREAS, the GHRA's primary purposes are to: (1) Promote the highest standards of service and quality in the hotels and restaurants on Guam; (2) Advocate

just legislation and governmental regulations governing the conduct of business; (3) Improve business-community relations through positive interactions with Guam's citizenry; and (4) Publicize the value and benefits of the island's visitor industry to the territory's economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Ñuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, congratulate the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association on the occasion of its Thirty-fifth (35th) Anniversary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association be commended for its many contributions in furtherance of the Association's mission statement and to the continued development of Guam's visitor industry; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Mary P. Torre, President, Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE ÑUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2007.