

**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
22-36 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje Telena Cruz Nelson Sabina Flores Perez Christopher M. Dueñas Joanne Brown Telo T. Taitague	Relative to recognizing the observance of "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" during the month of March 2021; and commending the various groups and individuals for their advocacy and commitment to promoting awareness of developmental disabilities among our island community	2/18/21 1:10 p.m.	2/26/21 2:00 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 22-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *Tmt*
Telena C. Nelson *TN*
Sabina F. Perez *SFD*
Christopher M. Duenas *CD*
Joanne Brown *JB*
Telo T. Taitague *TT*

Relative to recognizing the observance of “Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month” during the month of March 2021; and commending the various groups and individuals for their advocacy and commitment to promoting awareness of developmental disabilities among our island community.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÁHAN*:**
3 **WHEREAS**, the month of March is recognized as “Developmental Disabilities
4 Awareness Month” and is dedicated to increasing awareness by educating the
5 community on the challenges, needs and potential of persons with developmental
6 disabilities; and
7 **WHEREAS**, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act
8 (DD Act) defines a developmental disability as a severe, chronic disability of an
9 individual that is attributable to a mental or physical impairment, or a combination of
10 both, that manifests itself before the individual reaches the age of twenty-two (22) and
11 is likely to continue indefinitely. Disabilities, however, are a natural part of the human

1 experience and do not diminish the right of these individuals to live independently, or
2 to fully participate in and contribute to society; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, President Bill Clinton reauthorized and signed the DD Act
4 into law, which maintains State Councils and Developmental Disabilities in each state
5 and territory to conduct outreach, to provide training and technical assistance, to shape
6 policies, and to promote inclusion, to include the establishment of the Guam
7 Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC). This Act also continues Protection and
8 Advocacy (P&A) systems and University Centers for Excellence in Developmental
9 Disabilities Education, Research and Service (UCEDDS) to operate alongside these
10 councils. The P&A and UCEDDS on Guam, respectively, are the Guam Legal Services
11 Corporation – Disability Law Center (GLSC-DLC) and the University of Guam Center
12 for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
13 (CEDDERS); and

14 **WHEREAS**, the GDDC, together with the GLSC-DLC and CEDDERS, is
15 instrumental in the advocacy and promotion of programs that allow individuals with
16 developmental disabilities to achieve optimum independence and improve their quality
17 of life; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is a time to dispel
19 misconceptions about people living with developmental disabilities and to bring
20 communities together, with the ultimate goal of creating an environment that is more
21 inclusive and accepting of our developmental disability population. It is also a time to
22 reflect on the progress made towards improving the quality of life for these individuals
23 and their families; and

24 **WHEREAS**, this year’s Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month theme
25 has been inspired by our community’s ability to adapt and persevere through the
26 COVID-19 pandemic, with the theme as “The Virtual Reality: Embracing New Ways

1 to Stay Safe, Informed and Connected,” recognizing the impact the COVID-19
2 pandemic has had on society which has affected the traditional methods with which
3 people have interacted socially. While many around the world continue to observe
4 protocols and recommendations from medical professionals to help control the spread
5 of the virus, online and other virtual communication platforms have made it safer, easier
6 and more convenient for people to stay better informed and connected with one another,
7 creating an environment that is more inclusive; now therefore be it

8 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
9 behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the observance of “Developmental Disabilities
10 Awareness Month” during the month of March 2021; and commend the various groups
11 and individuals for their advocacy and commitment to promoting awareness of
12 developmental disabilities among our island community; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
14 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam
15 Developmental Disabilities Council (GDCC); the University of Guam, Center for
16 Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service
17 (CEDDERS); and the Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center
18 (GLSC – DLC); and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF MARCH 2021.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary