

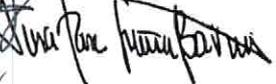
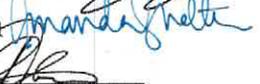
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
369-37 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Joanne M. Brown Jesse A. Lujan Frank Blas, Jr. Tina Rose Muña Barnes Christopher M. Dueñas William A. Parkinson Roy A. B. Quinata Joe S. San Agustin Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Amanda L. Shelton Telo T. Taitague	Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, and the numerous community advocates, organizations, and government agencies in their efforts to raise public awareness during April 2024 "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," "Child Abuse Prevention Month," and "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" from April 21 to April 27, 2024.	4/4/24 3:46 p.m.	4/5/24 10:00 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 369-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 
 Sabina F. Perez 
 Joanne Brown 
 Jesse A. Lujan 
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Relative to recognizing and commending the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, and the numerous community advocates, organizations, and government agencies in their efforts to raise public awareness during April 2024 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” “Child Abuse Prevention Month,” and “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” from April 21 to April 27, 2024.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** Guam joins the nation in recognizing the month of April 2024 as
4 **“Sexual Assault Awareness Month” and “Child Abuse Prevention Month”;** and also

1 recognize “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” from April 21 to April 27, 2024;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the month of April has been designated as Sexual Assault
4 Awareness Month (SAAM) and Child Abuse Prevention Month (CAPM) to raise
5 public awareness about sexual violence and child abuse, promote prevention
6 strategies, and support survivors; and

7 **WHEREAS**, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW), observed in
8 April, serves as a time to advocate for the rights and needs of crime victims, raise
9 awareness about victimization, and emphasize the importance of providing
10 comprehensive support and services to those affected by crime; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the theme for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) 2024 is
12 "*Building Connected Communities*." This initiative seeks to raise awareness about
13 sexual violence and educate communities on prevention strategies. By fostering strong
14 connections and addressing social and structural determinants of health like education,
15 income, and community safety, we can create safer, more inclusive environments. By
16 working together, we can promote health, safety, and well-being, striving towards a
17 world free from sexual violence; and

18 **WHEREAS**, rape and sexual assault remain serious issues in our community.
19 According to the FBI, Uniform Crime Report statistics published by the University of
20 Guam, the island has the second highest number of rapes per capita in the United
21 States. There are 64.2 reported rapes per 100,000 people in Guam, compared to the
22 national rate of 25.2 per 100,000 people; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Police Department’s 2021 Uniform Crime Report show
24 that 180 rape cases were reported, 79 fondling cases, 10 incest cases, and 7 statutory
25 rape cases; sexual assault impacts women, children, and men of all racial, cultural, and
26 economic backgrounds; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the survivors of sexual assault deserve to be treated with dignity,
2 compassion, and respect; and it is essential that services and support programs are
3 provided to to help survivors cope with the consequences of sexual assault through
4 counseling, medical services, food, and transportation; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault in collaboration with
6 the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center and Healing Hearts Crisis Center has
7 forged community partnerships with government agencies, private companies, and non-
8 profit organizations to enhance the quality of care for survivors of sexual violence; and

9 **WHEREAS**, “Child Abuse Prevention Month” recognizes the importance of
10 families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect; and to
11 build stronger communities where children can reach their full potential; and

12 **WHEREAS**, one thousand six hundred seventy-one (1,5716) child welfare
13 referrals were made here on Guam in fiscal year 2023; and according to the Department
14 of Public Health and Social Services, there are currently six hundred sixty-seven (667)
15 children under Child Protective Services custody; and

16 **WHEREAS**, child abuse negatively impacts every aspect and stage of a child’s
17 life, the long-term effects of which affects our entire community and the most important
18 tool to eliminate the tragedy of child abuse is prevention; and

19 **WHEREAS**, child abuse and neglect can be preventable when parents, families,
20 communities, and government organizations work together to provide a secure and
21 flourishing environments for children; and

22 **WHEREAS**, research has shown that parents and caretakers who have access to
23 resources and support systems are more likely to provide safe and healthy conditions
24 that promotes the social and emotional well-being of children and families; and

25 **WHEREAS**, “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” was declared by President
26 Ronald W. Reagan in 1981 to help increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and
27 concerns of victims and survivors of crime; and

1 **WHEREAS**, victim service providers, advocates, law enforcement officers,
2 attorneys, and other allied professionals can help survivors find their justice by
3 enforcing these rights; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the right to provide an impact statement ensures that victims'
5 voices are considered in court during the sentencing and, when applicable, restitution
6 processes; and

7 **WHEREAS**, "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" provides an opportunity
8 to recommit to listening to crime survivors in every space where decisions are made
9 that could impact them; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the April 2024 "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" theme
11 "How would you help? Options, services, and hope for crime survivors" serves as a
12 call-to-action for all of us to create safe environments for crime victims to share what
13 happened to them. By doing so, we're able to offer support, options for life-saving
14 services, and, most importantly, hope; and

15 **WHEREAS**, sexual assault, child abuse, and crime victimization are widespread
16 issues affecting individuals, families, and communities globally. Awareness and
17 prevention efforts are crucial in addressing these forms of violence and supporting
18 survivors in their journey towards healing and justice. Creating a culture of empathy,
19 understanding, and support is essential for building safer communities and preventing
20 future incidences of such violence. Events like "Sexual Assault Awareness Month,"
21 "Child Abuse Prevention Month," and "National Crime Victims' Rights Week" provide
22 opportunities to renew our commitment to ensuring all victims and survivors have
23 access to necessary services for healing and empowerment. These events also allow
24 communities to honor those dedicated to providing critical resources for rebuilding the
25 lives of survivors; and now therefore, be it

26 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
27 *Lihe slaturan Guâhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and

1 commend the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, and the
2 numerous community advocates, organizations and government agencies in their efforts
3 to raise public awareness during April 2024 “Sexual Assault Awareness Month,” “Child
4 Abuse Prevention Month,” and “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” from April 21
5 to April 27, 2024; and be it further

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
7 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
8 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault &
9 Family Violence, and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
10 *Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF
APRIL 2024.**