

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
557-37 (COR)	Amanda L. Shelton	Relative to commending and congratulating the Employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation on the occasion of their 49th Year Anniversary and to further extending Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase' to them for the invaluable services that they provide to the people of Guam.	10/14/24 10:19 a.m.	10/18/24 12:00 p.m.						

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

Resolution No. 557-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Amanda L. Shelton 

Relative to commending and congratulating the Employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation on the occasion of their 49th Year Anniversary and to further extending Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'ase' to them for the invaluable services that they provide to the people of Guam.

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation performs a wide variety of parks, recreation and historic preservation services for our community; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to improving the quality of life for our residents, and for our visitors, by promoting healthy lifestyles, strengthening our families, maintaining our parks and natural areas, and preserving our island's unique heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Parks and Recreation continues to properly maintain and operate our parks and recreational facilities, and ensures that all parks, equipment, and facilities are safe, attractive, accessible, and user-friendly; and also ensures that our island's historic sites are protected and restored for the benefit of present and future generations; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation provides activities that can
2 reduce stress, provide socialization opportunities, and improve the mental and physical
3 well-being of our youth, adults, seniors, and challenged individuals; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam share a long and rich relationship with the flora
5 and fauna of the island, as our culture and values are rooted in nature and provide a
6 sacred connection to our ancestors; and

7 **WHEREAS**, since the indigenous times, land has been used for communal and
8 ritual purposes and has shaped the ideals that the people Guam still honor today; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the relationship between the land the people of Guam has slowly
10 evolved to reflect the Spanish concept of public land, where these areas are accessible
11 regardless of clan or village ownership; and

12 **WHEREAS**, despite this transformative period, our ancestors have learned to
13 adapt and localize different perspectives to continue their traditional concepts, practices,
14 and protocols in the efforts to preserve their culture; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation also recognizes the
16 importance of our rich heritage through the preservation of our many historic sites, and
17 acknowledging Guam's Pre-Contact, Spanish, Early American, Japanese/World War II
18 and Post War Historic Timelines; and

19 **WHEREAS**, with the passage of the Organic Act of 1950 came a new era for
20 Guam parks. As part of the Organic Act of Guam, the United States had transferred land
21 to the newly established Government of Guam that was designated to become publicly
22 accessible parks, beaches, conservation areas, recreation areas, cemeteries, historic
23 sites, and national landmarks; and

24 **WHEREAS**, on January 23, 1975, at 11:30 a.m., Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo
25 signed Public Law 12-209 transferring the responsibility of parks and recreational
26 resources from the Department of Land management to a newly-created Department of

1 Parks and Recreation (DPR). This is generally considered to be the enacting legislation
2 that formed what the Department is today, and is also governed by 21 GCA Chapter 77;
3 and over the years, through legislative action, several parks and recreational facilities
4 have been transferred to Government entities such as mayor's offices or other
5 government agencies; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in the 1980s, the Department of Parks and Recreation had well over
7 two hundred (200) employees; however, today, it only has forty-seven (47) hard-
8 working souls who labor and strive to upkeep over sixty (60) territorial and community
9 parks and recreational facilities, including the Paseo Stadium, the Northern Regional
10 Sports Complex (a gymnasium, four (4) baseball fields, and various open spaces), two
11 (2) public swimming pool facilities, a tennis county facility, the Governor Joseph Flores
12 (*Ypao*) Beach Park, and numerous other public cemetery and is responsible for over two
13 hundred (200) historic sites and landmarks in addition to the regulatory responsibilities
14 of the DPR Historic Preservation Division; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the Department of Parks and Recreation is expected to see
16 much in the way of upgrades to its facilities and infrastructure thanks in large part to
17 the commitment of American Rescue Plan funding by Governor Lou Leon Guerrero,
18 the securing of grant funding in cooperation with the Guam State Clearinghouse and
19 the Department of Agriculture, and the application for funding through Federal
20 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant funding due to
21 the extensive damage in the wake of Typhoon Mawar; and

22 **WHEREAS**, in the first six (6) months of 2023, the Department of Parks and
23 Recreation has overseen the completed renovations and upgrades at both the Jose
24 Guerrero Softball Field in *Hagatna* and the *salaglula* Natural Tide pools in *Inalahnna*,
25 the expected successful completion of new community gymnasiums around the island
26 to include *Dededo*, *Tamuning*, *Agana Heights*, and *Malesso* to name a few, the

1 successful hosting of a Korean professional baseball team, the Lotte Giants, for their
2 spring training in February at both the Northern Regional Sports Complex baseball
3 fields in *Dededo* and the Paseo Stadium in *Hagatna*, and it is currently continuing its
4 recovery and restoration efforts to all its parks and facilities in the wake of the
5 devastating effects caused by Typhoon Mawar; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2024, the Department of Parks and Recreation reopened the
7 Dededo Pool after four years of closure for maintenance and renovation. The acting
8 director, Angel Sablan, expressed his vision to refurbish the *Dededo* Sports Complex
9 and enhance the ability to provide state-of-the-art recreational opportunities for the
10 people of Guam; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation has also begun a
12 rebranding of its Adopt-A-Park Program to promote stewardship, partnership, and
13 citizenship in managing and maintaining the parks in the Territorial Park System; and
14 the Department is in the process of hiring five (5) new Park Police recruits to expand
15 its corps of officers to maintain safety in all its areas of responsibility; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Department will be working cooperatively with Lieutenant
17 Governor Joshua Tenorio and the Islandwide Beautification Task Force, and the Guam
18 Visitors Bureau on beautifying and maintaining all of Guam's public parks and facilities
19 for our residents and visitors alike; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation will also be working
21 collaboratively with the Department of Land Management, the Guam Veterans Affairs
22 Office, the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, and the Department of Public Works on the
23 land registration and expansion of the Vicente A. Limtiac (*Tiguac*) Memorial Cemetery;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Parks and Recreation introduced Chaise, a
26 police dog whose job is to spread positivity to the island, build trust with the community,

1 and ensure the safety of those who visit the parks, as the mascot for the to the Park
2 Police; now therefore be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
4 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf the people of Guam, commend and
5 congratulate the Employees of the Department of Parks and Recreation on the occasion
6 of their 49th Year Anniversary and to further extending Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os
7 Ma'ase' to them for the invaluable services that they provide to the people of Guam; and
8 be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
10 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
11 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Department of Parks and Recreation; and to
12 the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

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

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary