

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 399-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

F. F. Blas, Jr.
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
J. V. Espaldon
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
R. J. Respicio
Telo Taitague
Ray Tenorio
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to commending and congratulating the University of Guam's Master of Education – Special Education program participants on the development and implementation of an innovative Teacher Preparation Program that is meeting the needs of the teachers of special needs children on Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS**, in the field of education, the most difficult teaching position
4 is the one devoted to serving children with special needs. Ten to twelve
5 percent (10-12%) of our schoolaged children are enrolled in special education
6 programs with another ten percent (10%) considered "at risk" for special
7 education services without proper intervention; and

8 **WHEREAS**, due to the inherent difficulty of teaching special needs
9 children on Guam and throughout the United States, school districts have
10 traditionally faced a major shortage of certified special education teachers.
11 The teaching career of a new special education teacher is approximately three
12 (3) years. Less than fifty percent (50%) of the teachers and administrators in
13 special education have full special education certification; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education's greatest shortage of
15 teachers has always been in special education. Therefore, there is a constant
16 need to train and certify special education teachers each year. The biggest
17 challenge has been to recruit, select and educate these special teachers and
18 keep them in the local educational system; and

19 **WHEREAS**, during the summer of 2007, the School of Education in
20 partnership with the Special Education Division of the Guam Department of
21 Education, modified its Special Education Teacher-Training Program to
22 accelerate the preparation of fully certified special education teachers. The

1 new weekend and summer program permitted practicing GDOE teachers and
2 administrators to obtain their Guam Commission on Educator Certification
3 (GCEC) Special Education Certificate (K-12) and Master of Education in
4 Special Education within a twelve (12) month period rather than the
5 traditional three (3) year period; and

6 **WHEREAS**, from 1990 until the spring of 2008, the University of Guam
7 graduated twelve (12) M.Ed. – Special Education students. As of May 30,
8 2010, the university will graduate seventy-three (73) students in the last two
9 (2) years alone under this new program. Sixty percent (60%) *or more* of the
10 GDOE Special Education Division administration have now completed a
11 Masters in Education in Special Education with full special education
12 certification; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the new program is nationally accredited by the National
14 Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), and the Council
15 for Exceptional Children (CEC). All graduates have passed the national
16 examinations and other requirements under the *No Child Left Behind Act* to
17 receive the highly coveted High Qualified Teacher (HQT) status; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the most unique aspect of the new program is that it is
19 focused in preparing practicing teachers and administrators with significant
20 experience in regular and special education, who are most likely to remain on
21 Guam with their new training. They are organized into small cohort groups

1 to help provide motivation and support to these special adult learners
2 throughout their entire training process; and

3 **WHEREAS**, while there will always be a teacher shortage in special
4 education due to the nature of this challenging work, the University of Guam
5 Special Education program has now established a nationally recognized
6 Teacher-Training Program with an impressive graduation record that is
7 beginning to reduce this shortage. At the present time, more M.Ed.-Special
8 Education degrees are being awarded than in all other graduate education
9 majors; now, therefore, be it


10 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na*
11 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend
12 and congratulate the Master of Education – Special Education Program for the
13 dramatic and significant contribution it has made to our educational
14 community and our special needs children; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
16 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and
17 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the University of Guam
18 Special Education Program; to the President of the University of Guam; to the
19 Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam's Congressional Delegate, to the U.S.
20 House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
21 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

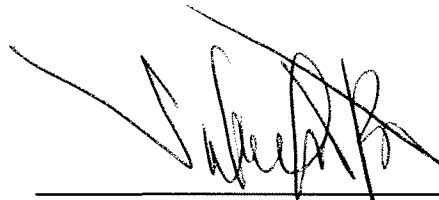
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THIS 24TH DAY
OF MAY, 2010.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary