

MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

2009 APR 28
PM

Resolution No. 97 (COR)
Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON JR.
B.J. F. CRUZ
JAMES V. ESPALDON
ADOLPHO B. PALACIOS SR.

Relative to recognizing Guam's celebration of "Drug Court Month" during the month of May and marks May 15, 2009 as the *National Drug Court Commencement Day* and further recognizing the practitioners and participants who make significant contributions in the campaign against drug abuse and crimes related to drug dependency.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the year 2009 marks the Twentieth Anniversary of the Miami-Dade Drug Court, the first Drug Court in the United States of America. The Court sparked a national revolution that changes the face of the American Justice System; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Court movement has grown from the 12 original Drug Courts in 1994 to 2,301 operational Drug Courts and 3,410 problem solving courts as of December 2008; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty years Drug Courts have been restoring lives, reuniting families and making communities across this nation safer; and

WHEREAS, Drug Courts provide focus and leadership for community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health professionals in the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and

WHEREAS, 60 to 80 percent of drug offenders sentenced to prison and over 40 percent sentenced to probation recidivate and 17 percent of Drug Court graduates recidivate; and

WHEREAS, results of more than 100 program evaluations and at least four meta-analytic studies have yielded definitive evidence that Drug Courts are demonstratively effective and significantly improve substance-abuse treatment outcomes , substantially reduce drug abuse and crime, and do so at less expense than any other justice strategy; and

WHEREAS, over 25,000 judges, prosecutors, attorneys , substance abuse and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and community supervision personnel , researchers and educators, national and community leaders, and others dedicated to Drug Courts and similar types of treatment programs are healing families and communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, Friday, May 15, 2009 marks National Drug Court Commencement Day, which celebrates the promise of recovery and restored hope to Drug Court graduates and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is important to establish and declare that the month of May 2009 is the “Drug Court Month” to recognize the practitioners and participants who contribute to make drug courts work and continue their significant efforts in reducing drug usage and crime; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of *I Mina’ Trenta na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby on behalf of the people of Guam, join the nation and our local community in recognizing and celebrating the “Drug Court Month” as well as in commemorating the day of May 15, 2009 as National Drug Court Commencement Day; and be it further

RESOLVED, to extend a “Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu’os Ma’ase” as gratitude and appreciation to all judges, support personnel, prosecutors, attorneys and rehabilitation professionals, law enforcement and community practitioners, who promote and help the fight against drug abuse and criminality; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption thereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Robert J. Torres , Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; to the Honorable Michael J. Bordallo, Judge, Superior Court of Guam and Adult Drug Court Judge; to the Honorable Arthur R. Barcinas Judge, Superior Court of Guam and Juvenile Drug Court Judge; to the Honorable Alicia G. Limtiaco, Attorney General of Guam; to US District Court Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood; to the Drug Court Programs Office; to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals; to the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges; to the Guam Chamber of Commerce; to the Department Youth Affairs; to the Department of Corrections ; to Sanctuary, Incorporated ; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga’lahen Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE _____ DAY OF _____, 2009.

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed. D
Speaker

Tina Rose Muna-Barnes
Senator and Secretary of the Legislature