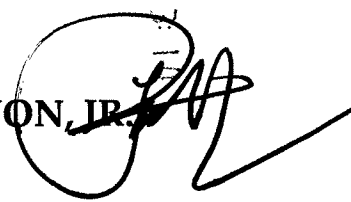


MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2010 (Second) Regular Session

Resolution No. 285-30(LS)

Introduced by:

FRANK B. AGUON, JR.



RELATIVE TO COMMENDING AND
CONGRATULATING THE STAFF AND
LEADERSHIP OF THE BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL
SUPPORT SERVICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE
LAUNCHING OF THE GUAM OFFICE OF
MINORITY HEALTH.

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

3 WHEREAS, Guam, as federally mandated in the compact-impact
4 agreement, has opened its health care services to our regional neighbors.
5 Guam has also become a new home to many Asian immigrants and a
6 gateway for Asian immigrants transiting to the United States, thus Guam's
7 population has seen a dramatic increase in ethnic diversity
8 notwithstanding the 8,000 plus US Marines, dependents, and foreign
9 laborers who will relocate to Guam in the next decade ; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Guam is now considered a multi-ethnic , multi-cultural, and
12 multi-lingual community of 37 percent Chamorros , 26 percent Filipinos, 7
13 percent Caucasians, 7 percent islanders from the Freely Associated States of
14 Micronesia and Palau and 23 percent from other ethnic groups; and

1 **WHEREAS**, many of the problems associated with Guam's poor health
2 have been addressed through various government programs, yet available
3 morbidity, mortality and other data resources indicated that a significant
4 portion of Guam's minority population remains burdened by poor health.
5 This indicates a large disparity between the health status of minorities and
6 that of our general population; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the disparity in the health care experienced by Guam's
9 minority population compared to the general population are reflected in
10 higher infant mortality rates, poorer health status and disability levels.
11 Disparity also exists in receiving appropriate health information, education
12 on preventive measures, and access to health resources; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, Guam's minority population is faced with many barriers and
15 obstacles that may impact their overall health, such as language and
16 cultural differences, immediate and proximal access to health centers or
17 programs, and inadequate services or shortage of staff to avail itself to the
18 health needs of Guam's minority groups; and

19
20 **WHEREAS**, Guam's minority population has withstood challenging
21 disparities in health care services and relies heavily on federally funded
22 programs for assistance. This demonstrates overcome in receiving
23 adequate health care, they are instead guiding principles in the
24 development of policies, strategies, and practices leading to better health
25 for all of our residents; and

26
27 **WHEREAS**, while there are attempts to address minority health and
28 health disparity issues, no coordinated effort nor formal office or program
29 specifically addresses the minority health issues on Guam ; and

30 **WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2009, the Governor of Guam, Felix P.
31 Camacho signed and promulgated an Executive Order No. 2009-26 relative
32 to creating the Guam Office of Minority Health (GOMH) to become
33 effective immediately within the Bureau of Professional Support Services of
34 the Department of Public Health and Social Services ; and

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WHEREAS, the Guam Office of Minority Health (GOMH) will be responsible for coordinating efforts addressing health issues of minority populations and eliminating health disparities in Guam; now therefore be it;

RESOLVED, that *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan* , does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, congratulate and commend the staff and leadership of the Bureau of Professional Support Services and the Department of Public Health and Social Services for the launching of the Guam Office of Minority Health ; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to *J. Peter Roberto, Director, Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services ; Ms. Roselie Zabala, Administrator, Bureau of Professional Support Services;* and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guahan.*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA 'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THIS _____ DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D
Speaker

TINA MUNA-BARNES
Speaker of the Legislature