

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

Resolution No. 399-30 (Cor)

Introduced by:


F. F. Blas, Jr.

2010 MAY 24 PM 1:51

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 is the
4 one devoted to serving children with special needs. Ten to twelve percent of our
5 school age children are enrolled in special education programs with another 10%
6 considered "at risk" for special education services without proper intervention; and

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

12 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Department of Education's greatest shortage of
13 teachers has always been in special education. Therefore, there is a constant need to
14 train and certify special education teachers each year. The biggest challenge has been

1 to recruit, select and educate these special teachers and keep them in the local
2 educational system; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during the summer of 2007, the School of Education in
4 partnership with the Special Education Division of the Guam Department of
5 Education modified its special education teacher -training program to accelerate the
6 preparation of fully certified special education teachers. The new weekend and
7 summer program permitted practicing GDOE teachers and administrators to obtain
8 their Guam Commission on Educator Certification (GCEC) Special Education
9 Certificate (K-12) and Master of Education in Special Education within a 12 month
10 period rather than the traditional 3 year period; and

11 **WHEREAS**, from 1990 until the spring of 2008, the University of Guam
12 graduated 12 M.Ed. – Special Education students. As of May 30, 2010, the university
13 will graduate 73 students in the last 2 years alone under this new program. Sixty
14 percent or more of the GDOE Special Education Division administration have now
15 completed a Masters in Education in Special Education with full special education
16 certification; and

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

22 **WHEREAS**, the most unique aspect of the new program is that it is focused
23 preparing practicing teachers and administrators with significant experience in regular
24 and special education, who are most likely to remain on Guam with their new training.
25 They are organized into small cohort groups to help provide motivation and support to
26 these special adult learners throughout their entire training process; and

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

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

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

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUHAN ON THIS 25th DAY OF
MAY, 2010.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary