

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 54-31 (COR)

Introduced by:

Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.

T. C. Ada

V. Anthony Ada

F. F. Blas, Jr.

B. J.F. Cruz

Chris M. Duenas

Sam Mabini, Ph.D.

Judith P. Guthertz, DPA

T. R. Muña Barnes

Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.

v. c. pangelinan

R. J. Respicio

Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.

M. Silva Taijeron

Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and acknowledging those affected by autism, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of children on Guam; and to further commending the Autism Community Together (ACT) for its efforts in promoting autism awareness, and on the observance of the month of April 2011 as “*Autism Awareness Month*”.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** autism is a complex developmental disability that typically
4 appears during the first three (3) years of a person's life, and affects that person's

1 ability to communicate and interact with others; and

2 **WHEREAS**, autism is defined by a certain set of behaviors, and is a “Spectrum
3 Disorder” that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees; and

4 **WHEREAS**, autism is four (4) times more prevalent in boys than girls, and
5 knows no racial, ethnic, or social boundaries; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there is no known single cause for autism, but increased
7 awareness and funding can help families today; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in December 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and
9 Prevention issued its autism prevalence report, and concluded that the prevalence of
10 autism had risen to one (1) in every one hundred ten (110) births in the United States,
11 and to almost one (1) in seventy (70) boys; and

12 **WHEREAS**, thirteen million (13,000,000) American families are now living
13 with the effects of Autism Spectrum Disorder, and the Autism Society currently
14 estimates that the lifetime cost of caring for a child with autism ranges from Three
15 Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) to Five Million Dollars
16 (\$5,000,000); and

17 **WHEREAS**, the United States faces almost \$90 Billion Dollars annually in
18 costs for autism; and together with appropriate education and intervention, are vital to
19 the future growth and development of individuals with autism; and

20 **WHEREAS**, through the increased awareness, and the services available to
21 individuals with autism, the lives of our friends with autism can be made easier, while
22 those without autism can expand their understanding of the needs and challenges that
23 individuals with autism are experiencing; and

24 **WHEREAS**, parents, support groups, researchers, and professionals have
25 dedicated years of service in their ongoing efforts to advocate for the rights, humane
26 treatment, and appropriate education of all persons with autism, and in order to

1 highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism
2 Society has been celebrating "National Autism Awareness Month" since the 1970s in
3 the United States, recognizing the month of April as a time of special opportunity to
4 educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a Governor's Proclamation will be signed declaring April 2011 as
6 *Autism Awareness Month*, when every resident of Guam is invited to participate in
7 activities that educate and promote awareness of Autism Spectrum Disorders that
8 affect members of our community, and their families; and


9 **WHEREAS**, Autism Community Together (ACT), formed in January 2004, is
10 spearheading an awareness effort in order to educate parents, professionals and the
11 general public about autism and its effects, and various activities are being
12 coordinated throughout the month of April 2011 to further these goals, including a
13 family day of bowling at Central Lanes in *Tamuning*; a display and fair at the *Agana*
14 Shopping Center (ASC); a trolley ride from *Agana* Shopping Center in *Hagåtña* to the
15 Micronesia Mall in *Dededo*, to include a luncheon at the ASC food court, and a family
16 potluck at the Northern Region Pool Complex in *Dededo*; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Unu Na*
18 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
19 of Guam, commend and acknowledge those affected by autism, and their families, for
20 their sacrifice and dedication to bettering the lives of their children and others living
21 with autism; and does further recognize Autism Community Together (ACT) for its
22 efforts in promoting Autism awareness, and on the observance of the month of April
23 2011 as "Autism Awareness Month"; and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
25 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
26 the same be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Evelyn Claros, President, Autism

- 1 Community Together; to Ms. Lourdes A. Mesa, Vice-President, Autism Community
- 2 Together; to Ms. Jennifer Rabago, Secretary, Autism Community Together; to Ms.
- 3 Rindraty Celes-Limtiaco, Treasurer and Co-founder, Autism Community Together;
- 4 and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahaen Guáhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN ON THE 7TH DAY OF
APRIL 2011.**



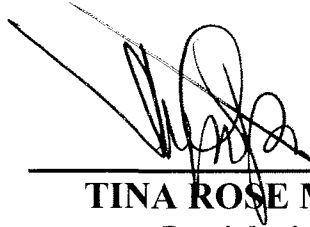
JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.

Speaker



RORY J. RESPICIO

Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

Legislative Secretary