

I MINA'TRENTAI UNU NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
THIRTY-FIRST GUAM LEGISLATURE
2011 (FIRST) Regular Session

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Muna

Resolution No. 230-31 cov

Introduced by:

Tina Muna-Barnes *✶*

RELATIVE TO COMMENDING SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDER REGION, SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GUAM
(SIG) AND SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF THE MARIANAS
(SIM) FOR THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO
THE PEOPLE OF GUAM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE AND TO
FURTHER EXTEND A SINCERE UN DANGKULO' NA SI YU'OS
MA'ASE' FOR THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE
MADE TO THE PEOPLE OF GUAM.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTAI UNO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

1 **WHEREAS**, In the Spring of 1921, Stuart Morrow, an organizer of men's service
2 clubs visited Oakland, California in search of potential members for an Optimist Club.
3 Presuming that the Parker-Goddard Secretarial School was run by men, Morrow instead
4 found Miss Adelaide Goddard and Miss Mabel Parker owned the school. Explaining his
5 mistake, Morrow excused himself. As Morrow left, Miss Goddard remarked that she
6 would be interested in joining such a club for women if one was ever formed. Goddard's
7 remark set the wheels in motion that would eventually create what is now the largest
8 women's organization in the world, Soroptimist International. The word Soroptimist coins
9 two Latin words, "Soros" which mean "women" and "Optima" which means "the best".

10 **WHEREAS**, on October 3rd 1921, which is officially celebrated as Founders Day,
11 Soroptimist Association of Alameda County was formed; and

12

1 **WHEREAS**, the Soroptimist Association of Alameda County is the first Soroptimist
2 Club in the world; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1928, Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA) was formed at
4 a conference in Washington D.C., which now consist of 40,000 members in 19 countries:
5 Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guam, Japan, Korea, Mexico,
6 Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, United States and Venezuela
7 and twenty eight (28) regions. SIG and SIM fall under the Founders Region; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 1948, the Founders Region Fellowship Program was formed and has
9 become the Region’s signature project, providing fellowships and grants to women
10 enrolled in graduate schools throughout the region boundaries; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on March 8th, 1978, SIG received its charter from SIA. Charter members
12 included Guam Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Public Auditor Doris Flores
13 Brooks, Former Guam Senator Pilar Lujan, Ms. Ann Roth, Ms. Grace Low, the late Ms.
14 Prudence DeNight, the late Ms. Edwina Jose and the late Ms. Ana San Nicolas, to name a
15 few and has grown to almost forty (40) full time dues paying members; and

16 **WHEREAS**, on February 9th, 1986, SIM received its charter from SIA and has grown
17 to almost fifty (50) full time dues paying members; and

18 **WHEREAS**, SIG sponsors a regularly scheduled radio interview show on KPRG
19 called “Making a Difference for Women”, a platform that speaks about emerging and/or
20 existing issues related to women, and

21 **WHEREAS**, SIG & SIM provides monetary award to the local winner of the SIA’s
22 “Women Opportunity Award” for women who are heads of household, returning to school
23 to improve the economic status of their household; and

24 **WHEREAS**, SIG & SIM provides monetary award to the local winner of the SIA’s
25 “Violet Richardson Award” for young women ages fourteen (14) to seventeen (17) who
26 through their own accord, perform voluntary work that are beneficial to other young
27 women; and

1 **WHEREAS**, SIG & SIM recognizes and honors the winner of the SIA’s “Ruby
2 Award” for Women Helping Women that recognizes a Non-Soroptimist who has worked
3 to improve the lives of other women ; and

4 **WHEREAS**, SIG supports charitable organizations that assist women, children and
5 families, including Erica’s House of Hope, the Salvation Army; and

6 **WHEREAS**, SIG sponsors an S Club at the Academy of Our Lady of Guam (AOLG)
7 that provides Soroptimist the opportunity to mentor high school age girls to instill within
8 them a desire for volunteerism and imparts invaluable encouragement and support; and

9 **WHEREAS**, SIM provides grants for young women to complete their high school
10 education; and

11 **WHEREAS**, SIM provides scholarships to women that are heads of households
12 studying for a degree at the Guam Community College (GCC), the University of Guam
13 (UOG) and the Pacific Islands University; and

14 **WHEREAS**, SIM supports charitable organizations that assist women and children,
15 including Erica’s House of Hope and the ALEE Shelter; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, SIG and SIM founded Erica’s House of Hope after the passing
17 of Therese Crisostomo and Erica Misericordia Aquino; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2000, Erica’s House of Hope opened its doors and has served more
19 than a thousand families since its inception and currently serves over four hundred (400)
20 children per month, providing a safe comfortable neutral environment for custodial
21 parents; and

22 **WHEREAS**, like the Founders Region Fellowship Program being identified as the
23 regions signature project, Erica’s House of Hope has become SIM’s and SIG’s signature
24 project; be it

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina’ Trentai Unu na Liheslaturan*
26 *Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend Soroptimist International Founder
27 Region, Soroptimist International of Guam and Soroptimist International of the Marianas

1 for their outstanding contributions and services provided to the people of Guam and does
2 further extend a sincere *Dangkulo' na si Yu'os ma'ase'*; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to,
4 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Soroptimist
5 International of the Americas; Soroptimist International Founder Region, Governor Linda
6 Sue Hansen; Soroptimist International of Guam, President Bernadette Lou Sablan;
7 Soroptimist International of the Marianas, President Lillian Llaneta-Reyes; and to the
8 Honorable Edward J. B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
OF I MINA'TRENTAI UNU A NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 29th
DAY OF JULY 2011.**

JUDITH T. WONPAT, Ed.D
Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairman, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA-BARNES
Legislative Secretary