Resolution No. 1-32 (LS)

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Relative to recognizing and commending the members of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) USA, Guam, on their tireless efforts and dedication in promoting world peace; and to further congratulating the members on the Thirty-Eighth (38th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA’TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLUTURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, March 16 is a symbolic day for Soka Gakkai International-USA, Guam members, commemorating the occasion on March 16, 1958, when Josei Toda, second president of the Soka Gakkai, then in frail health, made an impassioned speech to six thousand (6,000) Soka Gakkai youth, entrusting them with the responsibility for
the future of the Soka Gakkai and its efforts to contribute to the creation of a peaceful
world and promote understanding of the humanistic philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism
by embracing and devoting their lives to the Lotus Sutra by chanting, Nam myo ho
renge kyo; and

WHEREAS, in response to the needs of an increasingly global community of
Soka Gakkai members, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was formed in Guam on
January 26, 1975, and on the same day thirty-eight (38) years ago, one hundred fifty-
eight (158) delegates from fifty-one (51) countries met for the first World Peace
Conference, nominating Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, then president of Soka Gakkai, to head the
new Soka Gakkai International; and

WHEREAS, Guam was selected as the venue to conduct the First World Peace
Conference, given that the Chamorro people suffered so terribly from the ravages of
World War II; and

WHEREAS, from this auspicious occasion, the delegates founded SGI, and
thus began the worldwide grassroots activities of peace, education and culture, based
on the humanistic outlook of Nichiren Buddhism; and

WHEREAS, today, SGI is a worldwide network with eighty-four (84)
constituent organizations and more than twelve million (12,000,000) members in one
hundred ninety-two (192) countries and territories, sharing a common vision of global
peace and prosperity; and for thirty (30) years it has been accredited as a non-
governmental organization (NGO) by the United Nations (UN); and

WHEREAS, since 1975 to the present, Dr. Ikeda has introduced peace
proposals each year addressing the power of dialogue, the adoption of a Universal
Declaration Renouncing War, and the need for mutual respect in cultural exchange;
and he further cited the important role of the United Nations in maintaining global
security, while challenging the U.N. to become more representative of the people, rather than just nation states; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda has been a continuing source of inspiration for the SGI’s global grassroots activities in such areas as human rights protection, nuclear abolition, disarmament, sustainable development and cultural exchange; and

WHEREAS, SGI Guam members strive to emulate Dr. Ikeda’s energetic engagement in his Buddhist belief in the sanctity of life and the creative potential of individual human beings; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ikeda has encouraged the members of SGI to devote their lives to planting seeds of peace throughout the world, rather than seeking to bring the flowers of their own lives to bloom; and

WHEREAS, Guam members of the SGI resolve to contribute to the prosperity of their respective societies and countries, while respecting individual cultures, customs and laws; and

WHEREAS, the members of SGI-USA Guam have pursued activities to advance the cause of peace in dedication to the commitment by Dr. Ikeda; and

WHEREAS, SGI-USA Guam has further demonstrated its commitment to Guam by embracing the village of Tamuning as a community partner, and by co-hosting the first Latte Peace Festival on January 12, 2013, in collaboration with the Honorable Louise Rivera, Mayor of Tamuning; and working for peace through culture and education by featuring cultural dances and activities from the neighboring islands; and

WHEREAS, in January 2000, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the Twenty-Fifth (25th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI by co-sponsoring, with the University of Guam, the Soka University of America and SGI-USA, the first Pacific Islands New Millennium Peace Conference; and
WHEREAS, the conference brought together government leaders and high
chiefs from many of the Pacific Islands to share their memories of the Pacific War and
resolve to never again allow such violence; and

WHEREAS, in January 2005, SGI-USA Guam commemorated the Thirtieth (30\textsuperscript{th}) Anniversary of the founding of SGI by hosting numerous commemorative events in the name of peace, including the opening of two (2) traveling exhibitions, “Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World and Morehouse College’s Gandhi, King, Ikeda: A Legacy of Building Peace”; these traveling exhibits were displayed at the Office of the Governor of Guam, the University of Guam and the Guam Community College; and

WHEREAS, SGI-USA Guam hosted the Second Pacific Islands New Millennium Peace Conference for educators, focusing on “Humanistic Education: Fostering a Culture of Peace,” and sponsored a cultural festival celebrating the diverse culture of mankind; and

WHEREAS, in January 2007, SGI-USA, on the Thirty-Second (32\textsuperscript{nd}) Anniversary of the founding of SGI-USA Guam, realized another milestone with the grand opening of its new Activity Center, an occasion that members of SGI-USA, Guam have been working hard for years in order to accommodate their members and Buddhist activities; and

WHEREAS, in January 2010, SGI-USA Guam, commemorated its Thirty-fifth (35\textsuperscript{th}) Anniversary by encouraging the advancement of innovative ideas that focus on positive changes that promote a stronger, stable, and more sustainable world, beginning with the self and extending into the local community and expanding throughout our global society; and

WHEREAS, during its Thirty-fifth (35\textsuperscript{th}) Anniversary, SGI-USA Guam hosted various events throughout Guam, including a conference at the Guam Community
College and an exhibit at the Agaña Shopping Center, offering a variety of speakers and performing artists promoting the theme, “Seeds of Change: The Earth Charter and Human Potential”; an awarding of honorary Professorship to President Daisaku Ikeda at the Guam Community College; and the unveiling of a Peace Monument and the dedication naming of a pavilion at the Tamuning Community Park, across from the International Trade Center (ITC) where the first World Peace Conference was held in 1975; and

WHEREAS, SGI-USA Guam, believes that the creation of lasting peace and the elimination of violence, rather than the promotion of high level social reform, ultimately lies upon the ability of each individual on Earth to inherently embrace the spirit of peace in their hearts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Daisaku Ikeda and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda have dedicated more than sixty (60) years of their lives to the promotion of peace, culture, and education through their committed efforts as leaders of SGI; and they continue to serve as inspiring examples of how one person’s committed efforts can transform the lives of millions of people around the world, including those of us here on Guam; and

WHEREAS, in passing this resolution, I Mina’Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan acknowledges the need to mitigate deepening conflict and division in the world; and

WHEREAS, I Mina’Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan acknowledges that peace, the advancement of knowledge, and healing of all peoples may be achieved through dialogue and the perpetuation of good will throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, I Mina’Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan further acknowledges that as fellow humans we may conquer the ills of the world through a collective human spirit of cooperation, and that it is incumbent upon the people of
Guam to demonstrate our interconnectedness and shared common commitment to peace, knowledge, and good will; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** that *I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* hereby adopts this resolution as a symbol of our people’s firm determination, action and persistence in continuity of effort towards the preservation of peace, knowledge, and good will; and in expression of the people of Guam’s appreciation for Soka Gakkai’s advancement of humanism, engagement of global problems, and the fostering of trust and peace between peoples; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that *I Mina'Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the worldwide members of SGI on their tireless efforts and dedication in promoting world peace, which is ever more relevant in the age of terror and war; and does further congratulate SGI-USA Guam on the Thirty-Eighth (38th) Anniversary of the founding of SGI; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to President Daisaku and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda of Soka Gakkai International (SGI); to Danny Nagashima, General Director; to SGI-USA; to SGI-USA, Guam; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga’lahen Guåhan.*

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 11TH DAY OF JANUARY 2013.**