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<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date Intro</th>
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<td>424-32 (COR)</td>
<td>Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.</td>
<td>Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st anniversary as the Guam Chief Medical Examiner and to further extend a warm and sincere Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu’ os Ma’äse’ for his service and commitment to our island and regional community.</td>
<td>7/11/14 9:04 a.m.</td>
<td>09/08/14</td>
<td>08/27/14</td>
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Resolution No. 424-32 (COR)

Introduced by: Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr.
R.J. Respicio
T. C. Ada
V. Anthony Ada
FRANK B. AGUON, JR.
B. J.F. Cruz
Chris M. Dueñas
Michael T. Limtiaco
Brant T. McCreadie
Tommy Morrison
T. R. Muña Barnes
Michael F. Q. San Nicolas
Aline A. Yamashita, Ph.D.
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary of serving as Guam’s Chief Medical Examiner; and to further extending a warm and sincere Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu’os Ma’ase’ to him for his service and commitment to the people of our island, and the regional community.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINTRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Dr. Aurelio Espinola is the son of a soldier and a dressmaker, and grew up with three (3) siblings in Isabela, Philippines. The young Aurelio started working at the age of 8 (eight) years old, and his dream at the time was to become a
farmer; however, the simple dream was changed by his realization of the impact of poverty. When his brother got sick, young Aurelio tried to receive help for him from a doctor, but the doctor declined to help him because he didn’t have any money to pay the doctor for medical services. Since then, Aurelio told himself he would become a doctor to help people who cannot afford to pay for medical services; and

WHEREAS, Aurelio’s poverty did not prevent him from pursuing his dream. After finishing high school at the Victorino Mapa High School in Manila, Aurelio enrolled at Manila Central University for his studies in pre-medicine; and he then became a Doctor of Medicine at Manila Central University. While studying at the University, he worked after school at the Manila Night Court, attending to cases of traffic violators, prostitutes, and other criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Aurelio Espinola’s first internship was at the V. Luna Medical Hospital, a military hospital in the Philippines. Dr. Espinola graduated at the age of twenty-three (23) years old, an age so young that people would not have easily believed he was a doctor. After a year of private practice, he worked as the Boat Physician of the MV Legaspi of the Philippines Steam Navigation. During that time, he studied obstetrics and gynecology, and he became an ob-gyn; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Espinola was also an Instructor at the Ortanez General Hospital School of Nursing and Midwifery, where he met a young nursing student who eventually became his wife. Dr. Espinola also studied anesthesiology for two years before he and his family migrated to the state of Ohio, where he worked as a Surgical Assistant. In 1971, he went to the state of Michigan to work as an Intern of Straight Pathology at the Detroit-Macomb Hospital Association; and he then became a Pathology Resident at Wayne State University; and
WHEREAS, before he became the sole Chief Medical Examiner on Guam, Dr. Espinola worked for ten (10) years as a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner at Harris County in Houston, Texas, where he conducted at least ten thousand (10,000) autopsies a year. Upon visiting the island of Guam during a stopover on his way back to Texas, Dr. Espinola was convinced by a family member of another Filipino prominent doctor, the late Dr. Ernesto Espaldon, to work on the island. With only two weeks to resign from his job in Harris County, Dr. Espinola packed up his belongings and started his new life in our very own island community; and

WHEREAS, since July 1993, Dr. Espinola has been reporting to perform his very important work at an office at the Guam Memorial Hospital. He is in charge of death investigations on Guam, and in Micronesia. He performs an average of five hundred (500) autopsies on Guam every year; and an average of ten (10) autopsies every year on Saipan. He has performed at least ten thousand five hundred (10,500) post-mortem examinations on Guam since he became the Chief Medical Examiner of the island twenty-one (21) years ago. He has never missed a single day of work, except when he is attending training off-island. He has had a one hundred (100) percent work attendance record. He has never called in sick because he was never sick; and

WHEREAS, in his work as the Chief Medical Examiner of Guam, before Dr. Espinola would begin an autopsy, he would first talk to the family of the deceased person. On Guam, the medical examiner does the work of a medico-legal death investigator, a forensic examiner, and a counselor, in addition to court duties. In order to deliver effective court testimonies, Dr. Espinola studied law at South Texas College of Law. Although he didn’t want to be a lawyer, Dr. Espinola realized the importance
of learning how to present a good forensic investigation as an aid for justice in the
courtroom; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Espinola shared his secret method in effectively performing
his job: to remove any emotions throughout all the tasks at hand. The emotional
detachment he learned over time made him so emotionally numb he didn’t even cry
when his parents died. However, the job is still very difficult for him, as he gets
disturbed if the victims were children. If he actually knew the person who was to be
examined he would cover their face, because being the only medical examiner on
Guam, he is required to examine every single body regardless of how close he may be
to that person; and

WHEREAS, while it may be unbelievable that Dr. Espinola never got sick all
his life, it is probably more unbelievable that the small-framed doctor used to compete
in amateur boxing in the Philippines. Before he moved to Guam, Dr. Espinola had
served as an active duty member of the U.S. Army. He was a Lieutenant Colonel and
was deployed as part of Operation Desert Shield during the Persian Gulf War. Dr.
Espinola then gave up his active military position when he moved to Guam because he
couldn’t leave his post for deployment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Espinola may be the most important government official on
Guam because as a forensic medical examiner, he holds a very important role in the
legal system. He gives closure to every death situation, and his opinion and findings
are the keys in providing justice to victims of foul play; and

WHEREAS, aside from his expertise with surgical instruments while
conducting autopsies, Dr. Espinola also is very adept with culinary instruments in
pursuing his love of the culinary arts. He enrolled at the Guam Community College to
learn how to cook oriental dishes, and studied there for two years; and
WHEREAS, at this point in his life, Dr. Espinola wants to teach about the importance of forensic science in the justice system. He was part of the “Who’s Who Medical Specialist” - 19th Edition in 1980 Southwest. This jolly doctor is not looking at retiring yet. Currently, Dr. Espinola is learning about motorcycle parts because he has just ventured into the sales business; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of I Mina’Trentai Dos Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the people of Guam, recognize and congratulate Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary of serving as Guam’s Chief Medical Examiner; and does further extend a warm and sincere Un Dângkolo Na Si Yu’os Ma’åse’ to him for his service and commitment to the people of our island, and the regional community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Dr. Aurelio Espinola; and to the Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, I Maga’lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'TRENTAI DOS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 27TH DAY OF AUGUST 2014.

[Signatures]

BENJAMIN J.E. CRUZ
Acting Speaker

RORY J. RESPICIO
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary
Resolution No. 424-32 (COR) Dennis G. Rodriguez, Jr. - “Relative to recognizing and congratulating Dr. Aurelio Espinola on his 21st year anniversary of serving as Guam’s Chief Medical Examiner; and to further extending a warm and sincere ‘Un Dångkolo Na Si Yu’ os Ma’ase’ to him for his service and commitment to the people of our island, and the regional community”

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For Sponsor’s Office Use Only
Sponsor Signature: ____________________________
Staff Contact Person: Joe Mesnong
Date: 8/26/14

For COR/Clerk’s Office Use Only

Certified: ___  Returned: ___
Name: ____________________________
Date: 8/27/14
Notes: ____________________________