

I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2009 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 229-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

R. J. Respicio
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA
T. R. Muña Barnes
T. C. Ada
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
F. F. Blas, Jr.
E. J.B. Calvo
B. J.F. Cruz
J. V. Espaldon
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.
v. c. pangelinan
M. J. Rector
Telo Taitague
Ray Tenorio
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

Relative to recognizing and commending Michael J. Gawel, an employee of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, for twenty one (21) years of public service, and to congratulating him on the occasion of his retirement from the Government of Guam.

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I
2 *MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:*

1 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Michael John Gawel was born in Chicago, Illinois, on
2 April 26, 1946, to James and Ann Marie Gawel, as the only son among three
3 (3) children; and

4 **WHEREAS**, after graduating from Glenbard East High School in
5 Lombard, Illinois, in June 1964, Michael furthered his education, graduating
6 from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, in June 1968, receiving a
7 Bachelor of Science degree in Biology; and

8 **WHEREAS**, from 1970 to 1973, Michael worked for the Peace Corps in
9 Suva, Fiji, teaching at the University of the South Pacific. During this time he
10 identified and documented the reef fish in Fiji, and in the process he
11 discovered a species new to science, "*Siganus uspi*", a species of rabbit fish
12 endemic to the Fiji area, which has since become the National Fish of Fiji; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Michael's love for the ocean brought him to Guam to
14 pursue a Master of Science degree in Marine Biology from the University of
15 Guam (1973-1977), and while working on his "Corals" thesis, he discovered
16 two (2) new species of soft corals, resulting in the naming of one (1) species
17 "*Sinularia randalli*" after his professor, and one (1) species "*Sinularia gaweli*"
18 after his family name; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Michael's first association with *Ahensian Pruteksion Lina'la*
20 *Guåhan*, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA), was during
21 1975 while performing graduate work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
22 and

1 **WHEREAS**, from August 1977 to January 1980, Michael was employed
2 by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) and headquartered in
3 Saipan as the Chief of Planning, developing environmental planning
4 guidebooks and plans, managing planning projects, and reviewing
5 Environmental Impact Assessments and Statements, and while in Saipan,
6 Michael met the love of his life, Isabel John, a TTPI employee from Chuuk
7 State, and they developed a strong and lasting relationship; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Michael returned to Hawaii and attended the University of
9 Hawaii at Manoa from January 1980 to January 1982, studying Urban
10 Planning and working as a Master Urban Rural Planner; and he was later
11 hired by the University of South Pacific at Suva, Fiji as an Instructor and
12 Fisheries Training Officer, where he taught marine science courses and
13 administered program and project research from January to December 1982;
14 and

15 **WHEREAS**, Michael then worked for the newly established National
16 Government of Pohnpei, FSM, in Palikir, as the Chief of Marine Resources,
17 from January 1983 to September 1991, administering programs in fisheries,
18 aquaculture development, and coastal marine resources; and he also
19 developed national programs, produced development plans and trained
20 national counterparts; and

21 **WHEREAS**, while working in Pohnpei State, Michael and Isabel were
22 reunited and then were married in Chuuk State on May 28, 1983, later

1 returning to Pohnpei, where they started their family and were blessed with a
2 daughter, Anne Marie, and a son, James; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on October 3, 1991, Michael began his eighteen (18)-year
4 career with the government of Guam, beginning as a Land Use Planner for the
5 Guam Planning Council/Bureau of Planning; a Planner IV with GEPA (1996-
6 2000); the Administrator of the Coastal Management Program (2000-2004);
7 and a GEPA senior planner, since February 2004; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Michael J. Gawel was promoted to the GEPA Chief Planner
9 position on February 21, 2008, and was charged with leadership and
10 management responsibilities for the Environmental Planning and Review
11 Division, his key responsibilities aimed at providing both internal and
12 environmental planning services, and also provided external representation of
13 the Agency's programs and objectives to various government, business, and
14 community stakeholders; and

15 **WHEREAS**, as Chief Planner, Michael also served in numerous
16 capacities, to include: Guam's Focal Point (representative) to the South Pacific
17 Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); South Pacific Applied Geo-
18 science Commission (SOPAC) Planner; GEPA Lead Response Activity
19 Coordinator (RAC); Vice-Chair, Guam Seashore Reserve Plan Task Force;
20 member of both the Navy and Air Force Restoration Advisory Boards; GEPA
21 representative to the Civilian Military Task Force on military expansion
22 issues, and a member of the Environmental, Infrastructure, and Natural
23 Resources Subcommittees; GEPA representative to the Coral Reef Initiative

1 Task Force and Marine Preserve Regulations Ad-hoc Committee; and member
2 of GEPA's Employees Association; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in March 2009, Michael J. Gawel was recognized as the
4 GEPA 2008 "Supervisor of the Year", and he was the recipient of the Agency's
5 2008 "Integrity Award"; now, therefore, be it

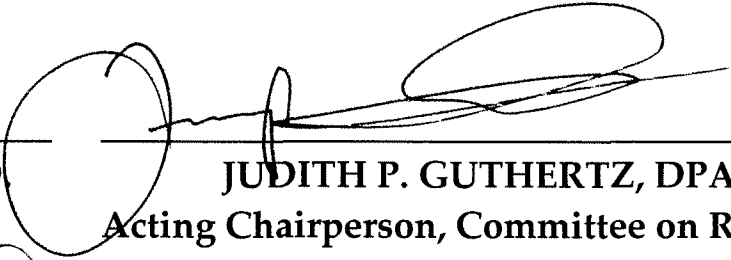
6 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na*
7 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
8 people of Guam, recognize and commend Mr. Michael J. Gawel for his
9 outstanding public service to Guam and its neighboring Pacific islands, and
10 for his devotion to his work, as exemplified in the GEPA adage, "*Todo y ni'lala*
11 *y tano man uno* - all living things of the earth are one", during his thirty-seven
12 (37) years of experience in researching, planning and educating on
13 environmental matters in these Pacific Islands, and does further congratulate
14 him on the occasion of his retirement; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on
16 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and
17 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. Michael J. Gawel; to
18 Ms. Lorilee Crisostomo, Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection
19 Agency; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

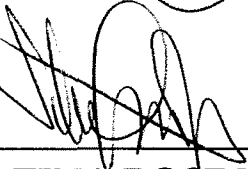
DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN* ON THE 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER 2009.



JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker



JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ, DPA
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Legislative Secretary