

**I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2010 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 285-30 (LS)**

Introduced by:

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

**Relative to commending and congratulating the staff and management of the Bureau of Professional Support Services of the Department of Public Health and Social Services on the launching of the Guam Office of Minority Health.**

1        **BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN**  
2 **GUÅHAN:**

1           **WHEREAS**, Guam, as federally mandated in the Compact of Free  
2 Association-Impact agreement, has opened its health care services to our  
3 regional neighbors. Guam has also become a new home to many Asian  
4 immigrants and a gateway for Asian immigrants transiting to the United  
5 States, thus Guam’s population has seen a dramatic increase in ethnic  
6 diversity notwithstanding the eight thousand (8,000) plus U.S. Marines,  
7 dependents, and foreign laborers who will relocate to Guam in the next  
8 decade; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Guam is now considered a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural,  
10 and multi-lingual community of thirty-seven percent (37%) *Chamorros*,  
11 twenty-six percent (26%) Filipinos, seven percent (7%) Caucasians, seven  
12 percent (7%) islanders from the Freely Associated States of Micronesia and  
13 Palau, and twenty-three percent (23%) from other ethnic groups; and

14           **WHEREAS**, many of the problems associated with Guam’s poor  
15 health have been addressed through various government programs, yet  
16 available morbidity, mortality and other data resources indicated that a  
17 significant portion of Guam’s minority population remains burdened by  
18 poor health. This indicates a large disparity between the health status of  
19 minorities and that of our general population; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the disparities in the health care experienced by Guam’s  
21 minority population compared to the general population are reflected in  
22 higher infant mortality rates, poorer health status and disability levels.

1 Disparity also exists in receiving appropriate health information, education  
2 on preventive measures, and access to health resources; and

3       **WHEREAS**, Guam’s minority population is faced with many barriers  
4 and obstacles that may impact their overall health, such as language and  
5 cultural differences, immediate and proximal access to health centers or  
6 programs, and inadequate services or shortage of staff to avail itself to the  
7 health needs of Guam’s minority groups; and

8       **WHEREAS**, Guam’s minority population has withstood challenging  
9 disparities in health care services and relies heavily on federally-funded  
10 programs for assistance. This demonstrates that rather than differences in  
11 culture, race and language being a series of obstacles to be overcome in  
12 receiving adequate health care, they are instead guiding principles in the  
13 development of policies, strategies, and practices leading to better health  
14 for all of our residents; and

15       **WHEREAS**, while there are attempts to address minority health and  
16 health disparity issues, no coordinated effort nor formal office or program  
17 specifically addresses the minority health issues on Guam; and

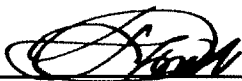
18       **WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2009, the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*  
19 *Maga’lahen Guåhan*, signed and promulgated Executive Order No. 2009-26,  
20 relative to creating the Guam Office of Minority Health (GOMH) to become  
21 effective immediately within the Bureau of Professional Support Services of  
22 the Department of Public Health and Social Services; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Guam Office of Minority Health (GOMH) will be  
2 responsible for coordinating efforts in addressing health issues of minority  
3 populations, eliminating health disparities in Guam, and identifying  
4 federal funding sources to sustain the mission of the Guam Office of  
5 Minority Health; now, therefore, be it

6           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan*, on behalf of  
7 the people of Guam, does hereby congratulate and commend the staff and  
8 management of the Bureau of Professional Support Services of the  
9 Department of Public Health and Social Services on the launching of the  
10 Guam Office of Minority Health; and be it further

11           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary  
12 attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter  
13 transmitted to J. Peter Roberto, Director, Guam Department of Public  
14 Health and Social Services; to Ms. Roselie Zabala, Administrator, Bureau  
15 of Professional Support Services; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*  
16 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS 22<sup>ND</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010.**



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JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D  
Speaker



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TINA ROSE MUNA-BARNES  
Legislative Secretary