

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

**Resolution No. 447-30 (COR)**

Introduced by:

T. R. Muña Barnes  
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.  
T. C. Ada

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V. Anthony Ada  
F. B. Aguon, Jr.  
F. F. Blas, Jr.  
E. J.B. Calvo  
B. J.F. Cruz  
J. V. Espaldon  
Judith P. Guthertz, DPA  
v. c. pangelinan  
Adolpho B. Palacios, Sr.  
R. J. Respicio  
Telo Taitague  
Ray Tenorio

**Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association, and the Palauan community on Guam and Palau, in recognition and commemoration of their Independence on the auspicious occasion of the Sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary of the Establishment of the Republic of Belau.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, the people of Palau and the people of Guam share a history  
4 spanning more than four (4) millennia; and

5           **WHEREAS**, Palauans first greeted the British traders and government  
6 officials who were prominent visitors in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, followed by the  
7 expanding Spanish influence of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. After the serious  
8 confrontation in Micronesia between Spain and Germany, war was averted  
9 when Pope Leo XIII arbitrated the conflict and issued the Protocol of Rome in  
10 1885, which reaffirmed Spanish sovereignty in Micronesia, but gave the rights  
11 to do business and to enter ports to Germany. Financially exhausted with  
12 administering colonies in Micronesia, Spain sold the islands to Germany in  
13 1899 for \$4.2 Million Dollars. The German eagle prevailed, taking all the  
14 island groups, except for Guam; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the control of Micronesia then passed to Japan in 1914 by  
16 virtue of the Japanese monitoring of German warships during World War I,  
17 and the islands were legally granted to Japan by the League of Nations as a  
18 mandate in 1920 at the Paris Peace Conference. After the defeat of Japan in  
19 World War II, and the historic battles of Peleliu and Angaur of September  
20 1944 that took the lives of more than two thousand (2,000) Americans and ten  
21 thousand (10,000) Japanese, the United States gained control of what was then  
22 called the Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands through the United

1 Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,  
2 with Palau administered as one (1) of the three (3) island groups' six (6)  
3 districts; and

4       **WHEREAS**, after forty-seven (47) years as part of the U.N. Trust  
5 Territory of the Pacific Islands under a U.S. administration, Palau's leaders  
6 opted for the separation from the other island areas in a special referendum in  
7 1978, and on July 9, 1980, the Palau Constitution was ratified, and its first  
8 constitutional elections were held. The islands then became known as the  
9 Republic of Palau in 1981; and

10       **WHEREAS**, Palau adopted self- government by way of its Constitution  
11 and the Compact of Free Association with the United States, which was  
12 approved in 1993 after eight (8) referendums and an amendment to the Palau  
13 Constitution; and

14       **WHEREAS**, in May 1994, the United Nations Trusteeship Council  
15 issued a Resolution requesting the Government of the United States, in  
16 consultation with the Government of Palau, to agree on a date on or about  
17 October 1, 1994 for the full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association,  
18 and in July 1994, the President of the United States, the Honorable Bill  
19 Clinton, reaffirmed October 1, 1994 as the effective date of the Compact,  
20 provided that all legal challenges to the Compact had been resolved, and they  
21 had been so resolved; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau is an island nation in the northern  
2 Pacific Ocean, located east of the Philippines, and perched on the Kyushu-  
3 Palau Ridge. The westernmost cluster of the Caroline Islands consists of  
4 twenty (20) large islands and five hundred sixty-six (566) smaller islands, and  
5 is one of the world's youngest and least populated nations; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Koror, or "Oreor", the largest town in Palau, is where  
7 seventy percent (70%) of the Republic's population live, and is the place that  
8 hosts most of the annual festivities and special events for the island nation,  
9 and was the site of the Capital from the time of Palauan Independence in 1994,  
10 until 2006, when Melekeok became the new Capital; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau joined the United Nations as its 185<sup>th</sup>  
12 member and took its seat in the U.N. in December 1994; and

13           **WHEREAS**, the splendor of Palau's tropical wonder, with emerald  
14 green islands stretching more than four hundred (400) spectacular miles  
15 across pristine azure waters, is a Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising  
16 majestically from the sea, nourished by ocean currents and sculpted by nature  
17 and time, creating the stunning, world-famous Rock Islands of Palau, a  
18 marvel of nature; and

19           **WHEREAS**, Palau was named as the number one Underwater Wonder  
20 of the World by Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-  
21 Research (CEDAM) International, an organization of divers, marine scientists  
22 and conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral reefs, blue

1 holes, WWII wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels, and over sixty (60) vertical  
2 drop-offs are found in Palau, where three (3) major ocean currents meet to  
3 create an environment of abundance and an enormous variety of marine life.  
4 The waters surrounding the Rock Islands literally teem with over fifteen  
5 hundred (1,500) varieties of reef and pelagic fish, and more than four (4) times  
6 the number of coral species found in the Caribbean; and

7       **WHEREAS**, this small nation, a world leader in the global struggle to  
8 save our planet, stands tall among the nations setting new standards for  
9 environmental stewardship and nature conservancy which has contributed  
10 enormously towards the progress of the people of Palau. The traditional  
11 leadership, the National Congress, and President Johnson Toribiong, have  
12 worked together to move towards developing a thriving and prosperous  
13 tourism industry and a vibrant future based on cultural integrity and  
14 protection of its natural resources; and

15       **WHEREAS**, Palau's wealth is not just found in its natural beauty, but  
16 also in a blessing of human resources, a well-educated and highly talented  
17 people, an integration of modern technology and developed techniques to  
18 weave these sources of natural and human wealth together to promote,  
19 protect and conserve the most important resource of all: the traditions,  
20 culture, and history of a free and independent people, the nation of the  
21 Republic of Belau; and

1           **WHEREAS**, soon after World War II, the diversity of peoples from  
2 Palau brought their culture of hard work and respect for family and traditions  
3 to Guam, their home away from home; and

4           **WHEREAS** on October 10, 2010, the Palauan community will celebrate  
5 its 16<sup>th</sup> year of Independence, a day that commemorates the establishment of  
6 their statehood; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan Community Association of  
8 Guam are proud to be strong supporters of our island, and the general island  
9 community, and they have contributed to various educational, sports and  
10 community charities over the past several years; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan community have continued to  
12 enrich our proud tradition of diversity, and they have endowed our island of  
13 Guam with their unique and collective strength; now, therefore, be it

14           **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trenta Na*  
15 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the  
16 people of Guam, congratulate the Palau Community Association, and the  
17 people of the Republic of Palau, on the occasion of their 16<sup>th</sup> Independence  
18 Day; and does further extend a sincere *Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse* to all  
19 our fellow Palauans on Guam for the positive contributions they have made  
20 for the betterment of our island community; and, be it further

21           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on  
22 Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and

1 that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Johnson  
2 Toribiong, President of the Republic of Palau; to the Council of Chiefs; to the  
3 Palau Community Association; to the Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo,  
4 Guam's Delegate to the U.S. Congress; and to the Honorable Felix P.  
5 Camacho, *I Maga'lahren Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES  
OF *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF  
OCTOBER 2010.**



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**JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.**

Speaker



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**RORY J. RESPICIO**

Chairperson, Committee on Rules



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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

Legislative Secretary