

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

Resolution No. 229-30 (COR)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio  
J.P. Guthertz, DPA

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2009 OCT 21 AM 10:30  
MUN

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 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 GUAHAN:

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Michael worked for the Peace Corps from 1970 to 1973  
11 in Suva, Fiji teaching at the University of the South Pacific, and during this  
12 time identified and documented the reef fish in Fiji, in the process  
13 discovering a species new to science, "*Siganus uspi*," a species of rabbit fish

14 endemic to the Fiji area, which has since become the national fish of Fiji;  
15 and

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

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

26         **WHEREAS**, from August 1977 to January 1980, Michael was  
27 employed by the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI) and  
28 headquartered in Saipan as the Chief of Planning, developing  
29 environmental planning guidebooks and plans, managing planning  
30 projects, and reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments and  
31 Statements, and while in Saipan, Michael met the love of his life, Isabel  
32 John, a TTPI employee from Chuuk State, and they developed a strong and  
33 lasting relationship; and

34         **WHEREAS**, Michael returned to Hawaii and enrolled in the  
35 University of Hawaii at Manoa from January 1980 to January 1982,  
36 studying Urban Planning and working as a Master Urban Rural Planner;  
37 and was later hired by the University of South Pacific at Suva, Fiji, as an  
38 Instructor and Fisheries Training Officer where he taught marine science

39 courses and administered program and project research from January 1982  
40 to December 1982; and

41 **WHEREAS**, Michael then worked for the newly established National  
42 Government of Pohnpei, FSM, in Palikir as the Chief of Marine Resources  
43 from January 1983 to September 1991, administering programs in fisheries,  
44 aquaculture development, and coastal marine resources; and also  
45 developed national programs, produced development plans and trained  
46 national counterparts; and

47 **WHEREAS**, while working in Pohnpei State Michael and Isabel were  
48 reunited and were married in Chuuk State on May 28, 1983, later returning  
49 to Pohnpei where they started their family and were blessed with a  
50 daughter, Anne Marie, and a son, James; and

51 **WHEREAS**, on October 3, 1991, Michael began his eighteen-year  
52 career with the Government of Guam, beginning as a Land Use Planner for  
53 the Guam Planning Council/Bureau of Planning; a Planner IV with GEPA  
54 (1996-2000), the Administrator of the Coastal Management Program (2000-  
55 2004), and a GEPA senior planner since February 2004; and

56 **WHEREAS**, Michael J. Gawel was promoted to the GEPA Chief  
57 Planner position on February 21, 2008 and charged with leadership and  
58 management responsibilities for the Environmental Planning and Review  
59 Division, his key responsibilities aimed at providing both internal and  
60 environmental planning services and external representation of the  
61 Agency's program and objectives to various government, business, and  
62 community stakeholders; and

63           **WHEREAS**, as Chief Planner, Michael also served in numerous  
64 capacities to include: Guam’s Focal Point (representative) to the South  
65 Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); South Pacific Applied  
66 Geo-science Commission (SOPAC) Planner; GEPA Lead Response Activity  
67 Coordinator (RAC); Vice-Chair, Guam Seashore Reserve Plan Task Force;  
68 member of both the Navy and Air Force Restoration Advisory Boards;  
69 GEPA representative to the Civilian Military Task Force on military  
70 expansion issues, and the Environmental, Infrastructure, and Natural  
71 Resources Subcommittees; GEPA representative to the Coral Reef Initiative  
72 Task Force and Marine Preserve Regulations Ad-hoc Committee; and  
73 member of the Agency’s Employees Association; and

74           **WHEREAS**, Michael J. Gawel was recognized in March 2009 as the  
75 GEPA 2008 “Supervisor of the Year” and was the recipient of the agency’s  
76 2008 “Integrity Award,” now, therefore, be it

77           **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina’Trenta Na*  
78 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby  
79 recognize and commend Michael J. Gawel for his outstanding public  
80 service to Guam and its neighboring Pacific islands, his devotion to his  
81 work exemplified in the GEPA adage, “*Todo y ni’lala y tano man uno*,” all  
82 living things of the earth are one, during his thirty-seven years of  
83 experience in researching, planning and educating on environmental  
84 matters in these Pacific Islands, and does further congratulate him on the  
85 occasion of his retirement; and be it further

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

88 and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Michael J. Gawel;  
89 to Lorilee Crisostomo, Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection  
90 Agency; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

91  
92 **DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**  
93 ***MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THIS \_\_\_\_\_<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF***  
94 **OCTOBER 2009.**

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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

**Pat Santos**

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**From:** Stephanie Mendiola [sem@guamlegislature.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2009 10:05 AM  
**To:** Daniel Perez; Dorothy Cruz; Elvy Mew; Flo Terlaje; Maria Nieves Materne; Martha Cruz; Pat Santos; Rennae Perez  
**Subject:** Sen RJR Resolution: Mike Gawel (GEPA), GovGu Retiree

Hafa Adai, Clerk's Office:

Please see attached resolution from Sen RJR on the retirement of Mike Gawel. Resolution presentation is scheduled for this Friday, October 23, 2009 at 12PM at the GEPA Office in Tiyan.

Hard copy is in route.

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Si Yu'os ma'åse',  
Si Stephanie

Stephanie E. Mendiola  
Research Analyst  
Office of Senator Rory J. Respicio  
I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahan  
The 30th Guam Legislature  
Committee on Rules, Natural Resources,  
and Federal, Foreign & Micronesia Affairs  
155 Hesler Place  
Hagatna, Guam 96910  
Phone: (671) 472-7679  
Fax: (671) 472-3547  
E-mail: sem@guamlegislature.org

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