





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

Resolution No. 251-30(LS)

Introduced by:

Edward J.B. Calvo   
Frank F. Blas, Jr.   
James V. Espaldon   
Ray Tenorio 

2009 Nov 20 PM 5:09

**Relative to welcoming Mr. William "Willie" Tau Hetaraka as Head Coach for the Guam Rugby Football Union and to recognize his years of dedication, experience, and commitment to the sport of Rugby and to express *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for demonstrating his extraordinary and outstanding coaching aptitude training the youth of our Island Community.**

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

**WHEREAS**, Mr. William "Willie" Tau Hetaraka is a recognized as a coach selector at the highest level in New Zealand is evidence of a coach performing at "the very top of his field." Rugby is the national sport of New Zealand whose team is currently ranked second in the world as a competitive National Team having been coached by Coach William "Willie" Tau Hetaraka; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Willie Hetaraka coached a team in the New Zealand National Provincial Championships in 1995 and 1996 resulting in his appointment by the New Zealand Rugby Union, the governing body for

rugby in New Zealand, to coach a Regional National team for matches in New Zealand and on tour to Australia. Mr. Hetaraka was subsequently appointed Head Coach of the New Zealand Maori Colts, an age grade national representative team for matches over the next four (4) years; and

**WHREAS**, Coach Hetaraka's appointments to coach these National teams in one of the best rugby playing nations is recognition of his extraordinary coaching ability. His ability to identify and nurture talent was further acknowledged with his appointment as the national Selector of the New Zealand Maori team from 2001 to 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Hetaraka, as a selector, required his oversight of the work of coaches throughout New Zealand and to select the best players trained by those coaches to represent the New Zealand Maori team in matches throughout New Zealand and overseas including matches against Tonga, Canada, Australia, and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, rugby in India is a minority sport but the International Rugby Board was keen to introduce the game in this hugely populous country. Recognizing Coach Hetaraka's extraordinary coaching abilities solicited him to head Coaching Project initiative in India introducing rugby to the Indian Army and to coach the Indian national teams; and

**WHEREAS**, India's National Rugby team improved during Coach Hetaraka's first year in 1994 as Head Coach and after India had been defeated

in their previous fifteen (15) matches, the team's world ranking improved by five (5) places securing two (2) wins and a tie from five (5) matches. Coach Hetaraka continued this success over the three (3) years of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Willie Hetaraka served as Head Coach at other International Competitions in Mumbai (2004 and 2005), Bangkok (2004 and 2006), Hong Kong (2004), Kuala Lumpur (2006), Kunming China (2004) Lahore Pakistan (2005) Kandy Sri Lanka (2004 and 2006); and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Willie Hetaraka's time with the Guam teams facilitated local coaches and players understand the commitment and effort needed to genuinely succeed in rugby at the highest level. He brings a no nonsense professional attitude to everything about rugby – playing, training, off-field, and community activities; and

**WHEREAS**, highlights of Coach Hetaraka's time with Guam's men and women's rugby teams include participation at the July 2008 Asian Five Nations International matches against Brunei (win) and the Philippines (loss); Guam's Under 20 win at the October 2008 Asian Division 2 tournament in Manila; and Guam's Under 20 Rugby Team won the November 2008 Division 2 Asian Rugby Football Union Under 20 Championships versus the Philippines held in Manila, Philippines under the tutelage of Head Coach Willie Hetaraka; and

**WHEREAS**, the men's team playing as the Continental Jets during the January 2009 Darwins Sevens tournament surprising many with their loss in the Plate Semi-final to the teams turning out to be the eventual Plate winners; the Guam Women's Sevens team, with Head Coach Willie Hetaraka, competed the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union Invitational Women's Seven in March 2009 and finished Runners Up in the Plate (sixth place) at the April 2009 International Rugby Board Asian Rugby Football Union Women's Sevens Championship in Pattaya, Thailand; and

**WHEREAS**, Coach Willie Hetaraka's Guam team competed at the June 2009 Asian Five Nations International matches with a win against Indonesia and a loss against the Philippine team. September 2009 brought the Guam Womens Sevens team having lost four (4) matches against the Asian champion China side in Shanghai yet learning valuable lessons. This past October the Guam Mens Sevens team travelled to Kota Kinabalu to compete in an Asian Sevens Series tournament improving their Twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) place record by finishing Seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and defeating the much fancied Thailand side; and

**WHEREAS**, the popularity of rugby continues to grow on our Island community with the significant commitment of the Guam Rugby Football Union and its local sponsors – Budweiser, Ambyth Shipping, Continental Airlines, Shell Guam, Docomo Pacific, Watts Contractors, and ASC. Guam's

Under 20 young men and the Guam Sevens team have made their own commitment to rugby and have responded to Coach Willie Hetaraka's coaching abilities, and, now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the members of *I Mina'Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* welcome Mr. William "Willie" Tau Hetaraka as Head Coach for the Guam Rugby Football Union and recognize his years of dedication, experience, and commitment to the sport of Rugby and to express *Un Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* for demonstrating his extraordinary and outstanding coaching aptitude training the youth of our Island Community; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. William "Willie" Tau Hetaraka and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.**

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

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**TINA ROSE MUNA-BARNES**  
Senator and  
Secretary of the Legislature