

I MINA' TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2010 (SECOND) REGULAR SESSION

Resolution No. 447-30(COV)

Introduced By:

T.R.M. Barnes
J.T. Won Pat, Ed.D.

2010 SEP 21 PM 1:12
J.W.M.

Relative to congratulating the Palau Community Association and the Palauan Community in recognition and commemoration of their Independence on the auspicious occasion of the 16th Annual Celebration of the Establishment of the Republic of Belau.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA'**

2 **TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:**

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

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

12 **WHEREAS**, control of Micronesia then passed to Japan in 1914 by virtue of Japanese
13 monitoring of German warships during World War I, and the islands were legally granted to Japan by the
14 League of Nations as a mandate in 1920 at the Paris Peace Conference. After the defeat of Japan in World
15 War II, and the historic battles of Peleliu and Angaur of September 1944 that took the lives of more than
16 2,000 Americans and 10,000 Japanese, the United States gained control of what was then called the
17 Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana Islands through the United Nations auspices in 1947 as part of the Trust

18 Territory of the Pacific Islands, with Palau administered as one of the three island groups' six districts;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, after forty-seven years as part of the U.N. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
21 under a U.S. administration, Palau's leaders opted for separation from the other islands areas in a special
22 referendum in 1978, and on July 9, 1980, the Palau constitution was ratified, and its first constitutional
23 elections were held. The islands then became known as the Republic of Palau in 1981; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Palau, adopted self- government by way of its Constitution and the Compact of
25 Free Association with the United States, which was approved in 1993 after eight referendums and
26 amendment to the Palau Constitution; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in May 1994 the United Nations Trusteeship Council issued a Resolution
28 requesting the Government of the United States, in consultation with the Government of Palau, to agree
29 on a date on or about October 1, 1994 for the full entry into force of the Compact of Free Association, and
30 in July 1994 the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, reaffirmed October 1, 1994, as the effective
31 date of the Compact provided that all legal challenges to the Compact had been resolved and they had
32 been so resolved; and

33 **WHEREAS**, The Republic of Palau is an island nation in the northern Pacific Ocean, located east
34 of the Philippines, and perched on the Kyushu-Palau Ridge. The westernmost cluster of the Caroline
35 Islands consists of 20 large islands and 566 smaller islands and is one of the world's youngest and least
36 populated nations; and

37 **WHEREAS**, Koror or "Oreor", the largest town in Palau, is where seventy (70) percent of the
38 republic's population live and is the place that hosts most annual festivities and special events for the
39 island nation and was the site of the capital from Independence, in 1994 to 2006, when Melekeok became
40 the new capital; and

41 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau joined the United Nations as its 185th member and took its
42 seat in the U.N. in December 1994; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the splendor of Palau’s tropical wonder, with emerald green islands stretching more
44 than 400 spectacular miles across pristine azure waters, is a Pacific jewel of limestone coral reefs rising
45 majestically from the sea, nourished by ocean currents and sculpted by nature and time, creating the
46 stunning, world-famous Rock Islands of Palau, a marvel of nature; and

47 **WHEREAS**, Palau, was named the number one Underwater Wonder of the World by
48 Conservation, Education, Diving, Awareness and Marine-Research (CEDAM) International, an
49 organization of divers, marine scientists and conservationists. Spectacular scuba diving locales, with coral
50 reefs, blue holes, WWII wrecks, hidden caves and tunnels, and over 60 vertical drop-offs are found in
51 Palau where three major ocean currents meet to create an environment of abundance and enormous
52 variety of marine life; the waters surrounding the Rock Islands literally teem with over 1,500 varieties of
53 reef and pelagic fish and more than four times the number of coral species found in the Caribbean; and

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

60 **WHEREAS**, Palau’s wealth is not just found in its natural beauty but also in a blessing of human
61 resources, a well-educated and highly talented people, an integration of modern technology and
62 developed techniques to weave these sources of natural and human wealth together to promote, protect
63 and conserve the most important resource of all: the traditions, culture, and history of a free and
64 independent people, the nation of the Republic of Palau;

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

67 **WHEREAS** on October 10, 2010 the Palauan community will celebrate its 16th year of
68 Independence, a day that commemorates the establishment of their statehood; and

69 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan Community Association of Guam are proud to be
70 strong supporters of our island and the general island community by contributing to various educational,
71 sports and community charities over the past several years; and

72 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Palauan community have continued to enrich our proud
73 tradition of diversity and endow our island of Guam with their unique and collective strength; now,
74 therefore, be it

75 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina' Trenta Na Liheslaturan Guahån* does
76 hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahån* and the people of Guam commemorate with the people of the
77 Republic of Palau the 16th Independence Day by means of this celebration, and further extend a sincere
78 Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'åse to all our fellow Palauans on Guam for the positive contributions they
79 have made for the betterment of our island community; and be it further

80 **RESOLVED**, that the speaker certify to and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption
81 hereof and that copies of the same be transmitted to the Honorable Johnson Toribiong, President of the
82 Republic of Palau; the Council of Chiefs, the Palau Community Association, and to Congresswoman
83 Madeline Z. Bordallo, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I Maga'lahen Guahån.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTA NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON
THIS ___ DAY OF October, 2010.**

JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed.D.
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Legislative Secretary