

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
136-37 (COR)	Jesse A. Lujan	Relative to recognizing the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th) Convention; and commending the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and the Bahá'is for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam.	5/17/23 3:46 p.m.	6/17/23 2:15 p.m.	6/15/23 12:11 p.m.					

Resolution No. 136-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan

Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Ducas
Thomas J. Fisher
Tina Rose Luña Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Sabina Flores Perez
Roy A. B. Quinata
Joe S. San Agustín
Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaji



we
11-22
06/16/23

Relative to recognizing the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th) Convention; and commending the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and the Bahá'ís for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the Bahá'í Faith promotes the unity of humankind through diversity. It calls for the spiritual renewal of the individual and the community; loyalty to government, and adherence to the laws of the country. It promotes the equality of men and women and the eradication of all prejudice. It emphasizes the importance of education and wholeheartedly seeks the advancement of children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the Bahá'í Faith has no clergy; it is through the efforts of its members, in conversation with their friends and neighbors, that the message of the Faith is shared. Bahá'ís open their homes to everyone seeking information about the Faith and welcome everyone to its classes on spiritual transformation, prayer, and the meaning of life and death; to devotional meetings; and to special classes for children and youth on spiritual development; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1954, the Bahá'í Faith was first brought to Guam by Robert Powers Jr. and Cynthia and Edgar "Olie" Olson. Cynthia R. Olson arrived in Guam on May 2, 1954, in response to the call from Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the Bahá'í Faith, and settled in *Inaláhan*, becoming the first permanent Bahá'í Settler in the Mariana Islands. This began the loving relationship between the Bahá'í Community and the people of the Mariana Islands. The Faith was not entirely unknown to the Mariana Islands as the Faith had only been introduced to the Manibusan family in *Sinjana* in 1936 by Mrs. Mary Sweyze, who had joined her husband, scientist Dr. Otto Herman Sweyze, doing a study of the insects of Guam. Additionally, during the closing period of World War II, around 1945, Mr. Paul Pettit, a member of a "special mission" of the United States Armed Forces, held a conference on Saipan with two (2) other young servicemen, Joseph Peter and Joseph Tierro, both based on Saipan; and

WHEREAS, in November of that same year, the first Bahá'í books were made available to island libraries. The Bahá'í Fund was also established, and contributions were soon sent to the Bahá'í International Fund in addition to a special fund to assist the persecuted Bahá'ís in Iran; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1955, a local resident made the first declaration of his belief in Bahá'u'lláh, which was followed by the first mention of the Bahá'í Faith on KUAM radio, which was made possible by Cynthia Olson as part of the "Calendars of the World" program. In 1956, Angeline Isezaki of *Humátak* prepared the first *CHamorus* translation of Bahá'í Writings, "Blessed is the Spot"; and

WHEREAS, the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Guam was formed in 1956, and was officially incorporated in April of 1957; and the first National Teaching Committee for Micronesia, appointed by the Hawaiian National Spiritual Assembly as a precursor to the first National Spiritual Assembly of the region, was subsequently formed and based in Guam; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Mariana Islands was elected for the first time. This institution exercises legislative, judiciary, and executive authority in the affairs of the Bahá'í community in the Mariana Islands; and in 1980, the Bahá'ís opened the National Bahá'í Center in *Malojoj*, *Inaláhan*; and the Center was later moved to *Hagátña* in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Bahá'ís have been members of the Marianas community for nearly seventy (70) years. Bahá'ís on Guam have traveled and successfully spread Bahá'u'lláh's teachings throughout the islands of Micronesia, forming four (4) Spiritual Assemblies: two (2) in Pohnpei, one (1) in Chuuk, and another in Majuro. In total, *CHamorus*, Carolinians, and other ethnic groups represented in the Marianas' population make up the Bahá'í Community today and continue the work begun by the first resident Bahá'ís on Guam; and

WHEREAS, in the presence of the Hand of the Cause, Dr. Mohajer, who represented the Universal House of Justice, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Mariana Islands consisting of Guam, Saipan, Rota and Tinian was formed in 1978. Since then, every year the Baha'is elect their National Spiritual Assembly like in every other country of the world; and

WHEREAS, there is no class of ecclesiastics or clergy in the Baha'í Faith. Instead, Baha'is use an administrative framework provided by their prophet founder Bahá'u'lláh. In his writings, he detailed a system of elected lay councils at the local, national, and international levels to oversee the Faith. Once a year in every national Bahá'í community, Baha'ís who are eighteen (18) years of age and older enjoy the right to vote in Baha'í elections, although only Baha'ís who are twenty-one (21) years of age or older can be elected and serve as members of Baha'í administrative institutions. All Baha'í elections are held by secret ballot and plurality vote. Baha'í elections have no candidacies, nominations, partisanship, campaigning, or electioneering; and

WHEREAS, the members of the National Assembly of Mariana Islands just returned from Holyland where they participated with over one hundred seventy-six (176) other nations to elect the members of the Universal House of Justice. The Convention that is held on June 17, 2023 marks the Forty-sixth (46th) Convention for the Mariana Islands, as well as the beginning of the second (2nd) year of the Nine (9) Year Plan, which is an important step for the Guam cluster in their endeavor to reach the third (3rd) milestone where hundreds serve thousands in building a vibrant community, growing spiritually and materially in fulfillment of the vision of Bahá'u'lláh for the world; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina Trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th) Convention; and commend the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and the Bahá'ís for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Manouchehr Sabeti; to Jenny Duenas Sarmiento; to Eiliria San Nicolas Sabeti, Secretary General of the National Assembly; to members of the Marianas Bahá'í Community; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Magn'ágan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 15TH DAY OF JUNE 2023.


THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker


CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary



I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 136-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
William A. Parkinson
Sabina Flores Perez
Roy A.B. Quinata
Joe S. San Agustin
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

Relative to recognizing the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th) Convention; and commending the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and the Bahá'ís for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I**
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** the Bahá'í Faith promotes the unity of humankind through
4 diversity. It calls for the spiritual renewal of the individual and the community; loyalty
5 to government, and adherence to the laws of the country. It promotes the equality of

1 men and women and the eradication of all prejudice. It emphasizes the importance of
2 education and wholeheartedly seeks the advancement of children and youth; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Bahá'í Faith has no clergy; it is through the efforts of its
4 members, in conversation with their friends and neighbors, that the message of the Faith
5 is shared. Bahá'ís open their homes to everyone seeking information about the Faith
6 and welcome everyone to its classes on spiritual transformation, prayer, and the
7 meaning of life and death; to devotional meetings; and to special classes for children
8 and youth on spiritual development; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the spring of 1954, the Bahá'í Faith was first brought to Guam
10 by Robert Powers Jr. and Cynthia and Edgar "Olie" Olson. Cynthia R. Olson arrived in
11 Guam on May 2, 1954, in response to the call from Shoghi Effendi, the Guardian of the
12 Bahá'í Faith, and settled in *Inalåhan*, becoming the first permanent Bahá'í Settler in the
13 Mariana Islands. This began the loving relationship between the Bahá'í Community and
14 the people of the Mariana Islands. The Faith was not entirely unknown to the Mariana
15 Islands as the Faith had only been introduced to the Manibusan family in *Sinajana* in
16 1936 by Mrs. Mary Sweyze, who had joined her husband, scientist Dr. Otto Herman
17 Sweyze, doing a study of the insects of Guam. Additionally, during the closing period
18 of World War II, around 1945, Mr. Paul Pettit, a member of a "special mission" of the
19 United States Armed Forces, held a conference on Saipan with two (2) other young
20 servicemen, Joseph Peter and Joseph Tierro, both based on Saipan; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in November of that same year, the first Bahá'í books were made
22 available to island libraries. The Bahá'í Fund was also established, and contributions
23 were soon sent to the Bahá'í International Fund in addition to a special fund to assist
24 the persecuted Bahá'ís in Iran; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in March of 1955, a local resident made the first declaration of his
26 belief in Bahá'u'lláh, which was followed by the first mention of the Bahá'í Faith on

1 KUAM radio, which was made possible by Cynthia Olson as part of the “Calendars of
2 the World” program. In 1956, Angeline Isezaki of *Humåtak* prepared the first *CHamoru*
3 translation of Bahá’í Writings, “Blessed is the Spot”; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of Guam was formed in 1956,
5 and was officially incorporated in April of 1957; and the first National Teaching
6 Committee for Micronesia, appointed by the Hawaiian National Spiritual Assembly as
7 a precursor to the first National Spiritual Assembly of the region, was subsequently
8 formed and based in Guam; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá’ís of the
10 Mariana Islands was elected for the first time. This institution exercises legislative,
11 judiciary, and executive authority in the affairs of the Bahá’í community in the Mariana
12 Islands; and in 1980, the Bahá’ís opened the National Bahá’í Center in *Malojloj*,
13 *Inalåhan*; and the Center was later moved to *Hagåtña* in 2002; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Bahá’ís have been members of the Marianas community for nearly
15 seventy (70) years. Bahá’ís on Guam have traveled and successfully spread
16 Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings throughout the islands of Micronesia, forming four (4) Spiritual
17 Assemblies: two (2) in Pohnpei, one (1) in Chuuk, and another in Majuro. In total,
18 *CHamorus*, Carolinians, and other ethnic groups represented in the Marianas’
19 population make up the Bahá’í Community today and continue the work begun by the
20 first resident Bahá’ís on Guam; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in the presence of the Hand of the Cause, Dr. Mohajer, who
22 represented the Universal House of Justice, the National Spiritual Assembly of the
23 Mariana Islands consisting of Guam, Saipan, Rota and Tinian was formed in 1978.
24 Since then, every year the Baha'is elect their National Spiritual Assembly like in every
25 other country of the world; and

1 **WHEREAS**, there is no class of ecclesiastics or clergy in the Baha'i Faith.
2 Instead, Baha'is use an administrative framework provided by their prophet founder
3 Bahá'u'lláh. In his writings, he detailed a system of elected lay councils at the local,
4 national, and international levels to oversee the Faith. Once a year in every national
5 Bahá'í community, Baha'is who are eighteen (18) years of age and older enjoy the right
6 to vote in Baha'i elections, although only Baha'is who are twenty-one (21) years of age
7 or older can be elected and serve as members of Baha'i administrative institutions. All
8 Baha'i elections are held by secret ballot and plurality vote. Baha'i elections have no
9 candidacies, nominations, partisanship, campaigning, or electioneering; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the members of the National Assembly of Mariana Islands just
11 returned from Holyland where they participated with over one hundred seventy-six
12 (176) other nations to elect the members of the Universal House of Justices. The
13 Convention that is held on June 17, 2023 marks the Forty-sixth (46th) Convention for
14 the Mariana Islands, as well as the beginning of the second (2nd) year of the Nine (9)
15 Year Plan, which is an important step for the Guam cluster in their endeavor to reach
16 the third (3rd) milestone where hundreds serve thousands in building a vibrant
17 community, growing spiritually and materially in fulfilment of the vision of Baha'u'llah
18 for the world; now therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
20 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
21 of Guam, recognize the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th)
22 Convention; and commend the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and
23 the Bahá'ís for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam; and
24 be it further

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
26 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of

1 the same be thereafter transmitted to Manouchehr Sabeti; to Jenny Duenas Sarmiento;
2 to Eliria San Nicolas Sabeti, Secretary General of the National Assembly; to members
3 of the Marianas Bahá'í Community; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, /
4 *Maga'hågan Guåhan.*

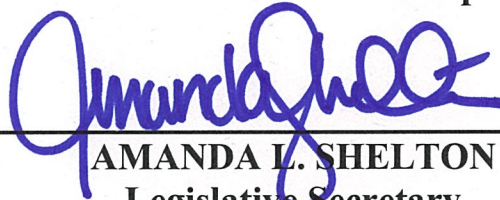
**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 15TH DAY
OF JUNE 2023.**



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary



COMMITTEE ON RULES


Chris Barnett, Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Resolution No. 136-37 (COR) - Jesse A. Lujan. - "Relative to recognizing the Marianas Bahá'í Faith Community on their Forty-sixth (46th) Convention; and commending the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election and the Bahá'ís for their contributions to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam."

	INITIAL	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
Senator Chris Barnett Chairperson					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez Vice Chairperson	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member					
Legislative Secretary Amanda L. Shelton Member					
Senator William A. Parkinson Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Senator Joanne Brown Minority Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Minority Member					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher Minority Member					
Senator Telo T. Taitague Minority Member	e-vote	06/15/23	✓		
For Sponsor's Office Use Only					
Sponsor Signature: 					
Staff Contact Person: Elise Calvo					
For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only					
8 Certified _____ Returned _____					
Name: Joaquin 'Quin' P. Taitague					
Date: June 15, 2023 at 12:11 p.m.					
Notes:					



Office of Senator

Jesse Anderson Lujan

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 37th Guam Legislature
Vice Chair, Committee on Maritime Transportation, Air Transportation, Parks, Tourism,
Higher Education, and the Advancement of Women, Youth, and Senior Citizens

June 15, 2023

MEMORANDUM

**To: All Honorable Senators
37th Guam Legislature**

From: Senator Jesse A. Lujan 

Subject: Presentation of Resolution No. 136-37(COR) Saturday, June 17th, 2023 at 2:15 P.M.

Buenas yan Håfa Ådai!

Please join us for the presentation of resolution:

Resolution No.136-37 (COR) – Jesse A. Lujan

“Relative to recognizing the Marianas Bahá’í Faith Community on their 46th Convention; and to congratulate the New National Spiritual Assembly on their election; and to commend the Bahá’ís for their contribution to the spiritual wellness of the island of Guam.”

The presentation will take place on **Saturday, June 17th, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn Resort in Tumon, Guam.

We look forward to your presence and participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Senator Jesse A. Lujan
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan