

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
418-37 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing <i>Siiot</i> John Raymond Aguon on his retirement from the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park; and commending him for his thirty (30) years of service to the island community.	5/24/24 3:39 p.m..	6/3/24 5:00 p.m.	5/29/24 11:51 a.m.					

Resolution No. 418-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

- Therese M. Terlaje
- Salvina Torres Perez
- Chris Barnett
- Joann M. Brown
- Jesse A. Lujan
- Frank Blas, Jr.
- Joni Rose Muna-Barnes
- Christophus M. Duenas
- William A. Parkinson
- Rev. A. W. Giamma
- Joe S. Saw Aguirom
- Dwayne F. D. San Nicolas
- Amanda J. Shelton
- Lela L. Lantagan
- Thomas F. Fisher



Relative to recognizing *Sinot* John Raymond Aguon on his retirement from the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park; and commending him for his thirty (30) years of service to the island community.

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

WHEREAS, it is the sense of *Liheslaturan Guåhan* to recognize the life and accomplishments of those distinguished citizens of this great island who have devoted themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of our community and the needs of our people; and

WHEREAS, one of those distinguished citizens is *Sinot* John Raymond Aguon, a resident of *Tadlôlo*, who is a dedicated individual whose life has been marked by diverse experiences and roles. As a veteran, *Sinot* Aguon had served his country with honor and dedication, embodying the values of service and sacrifice. He has also contributed to his community as an instructor, sharing his knowledge and skills with others to empower and educate. In addition to his teaching endeavors, he is a farmer and a rancher, cultivating the land and nurturing its bounty to sustain both himself and his community, tending to his beloved *Karabao* and ensuring their well-being; and

WHEREAS, with *Sinot* Aguon's contributions to the island, hailing from a family deeply rooted in the tradition of fishing, his legacy stretches across generations, leaving an indelible mark on the cultural fabric of Guam; and

WHEREAS, in the tranquil waters of *Tadlôlo* Bay, *Sinot* Aguon and his family utilized the *Jenahda* with skill and reverence, embodying the timeless connection between the *Chamorro* people and the beautiful sea. Their story was memorialized in a documentary celebrating Guam's fishing families, showcasing their role as custodians of our marine heritage; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon's influence transcended the sea shores, reaching the hearts of military families stationed at Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam. Every Christmas, he transformed his *Karabao* cart into a whimsical sleigh, embarking on a journey to spread joy and laughter among the servicemen and women, particularly the children. His festive presence became a cherished tradition, bridging communities and fostering goodwill during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon's true passion lay in nurturing the cultural roots of our island's youth. With unwavering dedication, he devoted countless hours to visiting local schools, both public and private, accompanied by his beloved *Karabao*. Through captivating performances and engaging educational sessions, *Sinot* Aguon illuminated the significance of the *Karabao* in Guam's history, imparting invaluable lessons to eager young minds; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon's deep connection with his *Karabao* stretches back through generations, embodying an integral part of *Chamorro* culture. *Karabao*, originally brought to Guam from the Philippines, served as practical possessions for plowing, transportation, and ceremonial gifts in marriages; and *Sinot* Aguon's family tradition included promoting using the *Karabao* for farm work; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon assumed a pivotal role as a cultural savior within *Chamorro* communities, symbolizing the enduring spirit of tradition and unity. As couples embarked on the sacred journey of marriage, *Sinot* Aguon's *Karabao* stood as a steadfast companion, guiding them through the jubilant festivities of the *Tadlôlo* with grace and dignity; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon's journey to *metaboli* embodies the transformative power of a simple yet profound idea, providing *Karabao* rides to both tourists and locals as a means to offer them a unique vantage point to behold our island's splendor. The significance of *Sinot* Aguon's concept lies in the ability to merge tradition with innovation, catering to the needs of both tourists seeking authentic experiences and locals looking to reconnect with their cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, since 1994, *Sinot* Aguon has been a fixture at the *Chamorro* Village, offering *Karabao* rides with unwavering dedication, and his consistent fee of Three Dollars (\$3.00) per ride reflects his commitment to accessibility. Despite his long tenure, *Sinot* Aguon's main focus remains on bringing joy to children, often offering free rides to those with disabilities or financial constraints. For him, seeing children smile is the ultimate reward; and

WHEREAS, by introducing *Karabao* rides as a mode of tourism attraction, *Sinot* Aguon not only tapped into a niche market but also revitalized a traditional practice that had perhaps been overlooked or undervalued as the *Karabao* holds a special place in the *Chamorro* cultural heritage, symbolizing resilience, hard work, and the agrarian way of life; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon not only provided a means for visitors to experience the island's beauty from a unique perspective but also contributed to the preservation and promotion of local culture and heritage. By involving locals in the operation, he fostered a sense of community engagement and empowerment, turning what could have been a mere business venture into a catalyst for social and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the simplicity of the idea not only serves as a source of income for *Sinot* Aguon but also enhances the overall tourism experience by offering a glimpse into the rich tapestry of local life. *Sinot* Aguon's initiative exemplifies how thinking outside the box and leveraging traditional practices can create opportunities for sustainable tourism development while simultaneously celebrating and preserving cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the events of March 2021 marked a profound moment of sorrow and disbelief for *Sinot* Aguon and the entire island community, as they grappled with the tragic loss of their beloved *Karabao*, "*Sinot*". *Sinot* was not just a mere animal - she embodied a cherished companion, a symbol of joy, and a vital part of the fabric of daily life at the Valley of the Latte; and

WHEREAS, the news of *Sinot*'s untimely demise struck at the core of the community, leaving behind a trail of shock and anguish. The circumstances surrounding her death, a victim of senseless violence through gunshot wounds to her ribs and lower jaw, shattered the tranquility that had long defined the island's spirit; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot*'s presence was not confined to the boundaries of the Valley of the Latte; she was woven into the memories and experiences of all who had encountered her gentle nature and unwavering loyalty; and

WHEREAS, in January 2023, *Sinot*, the beloved *Karabao* of *Chamorro* Village, known for providing rides to countless residents and visitors for over two (2) decades, passed away. *Sinot* Aguon considered *Sinot* as part of his family, and even referred to her as his business partner. *Sinot* provided countless rides over the past twenty-two (22) years, catering to kids, local residents, visitors, government officials, and even celebrities like Ysa Lujan and comedian Mikee Bustos and singer actress Vanessa Williams. *Sinot* got his name due to being blind in one eye, as "*Sinot*" translates to "having one bad eye" in the *Chamorro* language; and his final ride was for a wedding ceremony that was held on December 31, New Year's Eve; and

WHEREAS, beyond offering *Karabao* rides at *Chamorro* Village, Pacific Island Club Guam, and the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park, *Sinot* Aguon emerged as a fervent advocate for the preservation of Guam's cultural identity, tirelessly working to raise awareness about the significance of *Karabao* in local tradition and everyday life. His passion for these creatures transcends mere business; it is a testament to his commitment to safeguarding Guam's rich heritage for future generations; and

WHEREAS, *Sinot* Aguon's journey has been marked by challenges, yet his unwavering commitment to preserving Guam's cultural heritage and caring for his *Karabao* remains steadfast. In every aspect of his life, *Sinot* Aguon exemplifies the essence of community, compassion, and cultural preservation; and

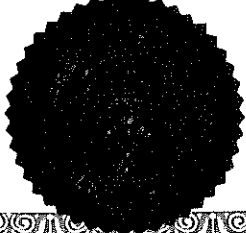
WHEREAS, with *Sinot* Aguon's dedication to preserving the *Chamorro* culture, promoting education, and fostering community engagement, his legacy serves as a beacon of inspiration for future generations, reminding us of the profound impact that one individual can have in shaping the identity and soul of our island home; now, therefore, be it

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 29TH DAY OF

Therese M. Terlaje
 THERESE M. TERLAJE
 Speaker

Chris Barnett
 CHRIS BARNETT
 Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Amanda L. Shelton
 AMANDA L. SHELTON
 Legislative Secretary



Marie Cruz
 MARIE CRUZ
 5/31/24, 1:38pm

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 418-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

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

Relative to recognizing *Sĩnot* John Raymond Aguon on his retirement from the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park; and commending him for his thirty (30) years of service to the island community.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to recognize the life and
4 accomplishments of those distinguished citizens of this great island who have devoted
5 themselves to faithfully serving the best interests of our community and the needs of
6 our people; and

1 **WHEREAS**, one of those distinguished citizens is *Siñot* John Raymond Aguon,
2 a resident of *Talo'fo'fo*, who is a dedicated individual whose life has been marked by
3 diverse experiences and roles. As a veteran, *Siñot* Aguon had served his country with
4 honor and dedication, embodying the values of service and sacrifice. He has also
5 contributed to his community as an instructor, sharing his knowledge and skills with
6 others to empower and educate. In addition to his teaching endeavors, he is a farmer
7 and a rancher, cultivating the land and nurturing its bounty to sustain both himself and
8 his community, tending to his beloved *karabaos* and ensuring their well-being; and

9 **WHEREAS**, with *Siñot* Aguon's contributions to the island, hailing from a
10 family deeply rooted in the tradition of fishing, his legacy stretches across generations,
11 leaving an indelible mark on the cultural fabric of Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in the tranquil waters of *Talo'fo'fo* Bay, *Siñot* Aguon and his family
13 utilized the *chinchulu* with skill and reverence, embodying the timeless connection
14 between the *CHamoru* people and the bountiful sea. Their story was memorialized in a
15 documentary celebrating Guam's fishing families, showcasing their role as custodians
16 of our marine heritage; and

17 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon's influence transcended the sea shores, reaching the
18 hearts of military families stationed at Andersen Air Force Base and Naval Base Guam.
19 Every Christmas, he transformed his *karabao* cart into a whimsical sleigh, embarking
20 on a journey to spread joy and laughter among the servicemen and women, particularly
21 the children. His festive presence became a cherished tradition, bridging communities
22 and fostering goodwill during the holiday season; and

23 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon's true passion lay in nurturing the cultural roots of our
24 island's youth. With unwavering dedication, he devoted countless hours to visiting local
25 schools, both public and private, accompanied by his beloved *karabao*. Through
26 captivating performances and engaging educational sessions, *Siñot* Aguon illuminated

1 the significance of the *karabao* in Guam’s history, imparting invaluable lessons to eager
2 young minds; and

3 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon’s deep connection with his *karabaos* stretches back
4 through generations, embodying an integral part of *CHamoru* culture. *Karabaos*,
5 originally brought to Guam from the Philippines, served as prized possessions for
6 plowing, transportation, and ceremonial gifts in marriages; and *Siñot* Aguon’s family
7 tradition involved primarily using the *karabao* for farm work; and

8 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon assumed a pivotal role as a cultural icon within
9 *CHamoru* unions, symbolizing the enduring spirit of tradition and unity. As couples
10 embarked on the sacred journey of marriage, *Siñot* Aguon’s *karabao* stood as a steadfast
11 companion, guiding them through the jubilant festivities of the *fandango* with grace and
12 dignity; and

13 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon’s journey to notability embodies the transformative
14 power of a simple yet profound idea: providing *karabao* rides to both tourists and locals
15 as a means to offer them a unique vantage point to behold our island’s splendor. The
16 significance of *Siñot* Aguon’s concept lies in the ability to merge tradition with
17 innovation, catering to the needs of both tourists seeking authentic experiences and
18 locals looking to reconnect with their cultural heritage; and

19 **WHEREAS**, since 1994, *Siñot* Aguon has been a fixture at the *CHamoru*
20 Village, offering *karabao* rides with unwavering dedication; and his consistent fee of
21 Three Dollars (\$3.00) per ride reflects his commitment to accessibility. Despite his long
22 tenure, *Siñot* Aguon’s main focus remains on bringing joy to children, often offering
23 free rides to those with disabilities or financial constraints. For him, seeing children
24 smile is the ultimate reward; and

25 **WHEREAS**, by introducing *karabao* rides as a mode of tourism attractions,
26 *Siñot* Aguon not only tapped into a niche market but also revitalized a traditional

1 practice that had perhaps been overlooked or undervalued, as the *karabao* holds a
2 special place in the *CHamoru* cultural heritage, symbolizing resilience, hard work, and
3 the agrarian way of life; and

4 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon not only provided a means for visitors to experience
5 the island’s beauty from a unique perspective but also contributed to the preservation
6 and promotion of local culture and heritage. By involving locals in the operation, he
7 fostered a sense of community engagement and empowerment, turning what could have
8 been a mere business venture into a catalyst for social and economic development; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the simplicity of the idea not only serves as a source of income for
10 *Siñot* Aguon but also enhances the overall tourism experience by offering a glimpse
11 into the rich tapestry of local life. *Siñot* Aguon’s initiative exemplifies how thinking
12 outside the box and leveraging traditional practices can create opportunities for
13 sustainable tourism development while simultaneously celebrating and preserving
14 cultural identity; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the events of March 2021 marked a profound moment of sorrow
16 and disbelief for *Siñot* Aguon and the entire island community, as they grappled with
17 the tragic loss of their beloved *karabao*, “*Anghit*.” *Anghit* was not just a mere animal -
18 she embodied a cherished companion, a symbol of joy, and a vital part of the fabric of
19 daily life at the Valley of the Latte; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the news of *Anghit*’s untimely demise struck at the core of the
21 community, leaving behind a trail of shock and anguish. The circumstances surrounding
22 her death, a victim of senseless violence through gunshot wounds to her ribs and lower
23 jaw, shattered the tranquility that had long defined the island’s spirit; and

24 **WHEREAS**, *Anghit*’s presence was not confined to the boundaries of the Valley
25 of the Latte; she was woven into the memories and experiences of all who had
26 encountered her gentle nature and unwavering loyalty; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in January 2023, *Do'ak*, the beloved *karabao* of *CHamoru* Village,
2 known for providing rides to countless residents and visitors for over two (2) decades,
3 passed away. *Siñot* Aguon considered *Do'ak* as part of his family and even referred to
4 him as his business partner. *Do'ak* provided countless rides over the past twenty-two
5 (22) years, catering to kids, local residents, visitors, government officials, and even
6 celebrities like YouTuber and comedian Mikey Bustos and singer-actress Vanessa
7 Williams. *Do'ak* got his name due to being blind in one eye, as “*Do'ak*” translates to
8 “having one bad eye” in the *CHamoru* language; and his final ride was for a wedding
9 ceremony that was held on December 31, New Year’s Eve; and

10 **WHEREAS**, beyond offering *karabao* rides at *CHamoru* Village, Pacific Islands
11 Club Guam, and the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park, *Siñot* Aguon emerged as a
12 fervent advocate for the preservation of Guam’s cultural identity, tirelessly working to
13 raise awareness about the significance of *karabaos* in local tradition and everyday life.
14 His passion for these creatures transcends mere business; it is a testament to his
15 commitment to safeguarding Guam’s rich heritage for future generations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, *Siñot* Aguon’s journey has been marked by challenges, yet his
17 unwavering commitment to preserving Guam’s cultural heritage and caring for its
18 *karabaos* remains steadfast. In every aspect of his life, *Siñot* Aguon exemplifies the
19 essence of community, compassion, and cultural preservation; and

20 **WHEREAS**, with *Siñot* Aguon’s dedication to preserving the *CHamoru* culture,
21 promoting education, and fostering community engagement, his legacy serves as a
22 beacon of inspiration for future generations, reminding us of the profound impact that
23 one individual can have in shaping the identity and soul of our island home; now
24 therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
26 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people

1 of Guam, recognize *Siñot* John Raymond Aguon on his retirement from the Valley of
2 the Latte Adventure Park; and commend him for his thirty (30) years of service to the
3 island community; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
5 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
6 the same be thereafter transmitted to *Siñot* John Raymond Aguon; and to the Honorable
7 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 29TH DAY
OF MAY 2024.**



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. 418-37 (COR) – Therese M. Terlaje, Sabina Flores Perez, Chris Barnett, Joanne M. Brown, Jesse A. Lujan, Frank Blas, Jr., Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Christopher M. Dueñas, William A. Parkinson, Roy A. B. Quinata, Joe S. San Agustin, Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, Amanda L. Shelton, Telo T. Taitague. – “Relative to recognizing *Sinot* John Raymond Aguon on his retirement from the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park; and commending him for his thirty (30) years of service to the island community.”

	INITIAL	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
Senator Chris Barnett Chairperson					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez Vice Chairperson	E-Vote	5/28/24	X		
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje Member	<i>TMT</i>	5/28/24	X		
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes Member	E-Vote	5/29/24	X		
Legislative Secretary Amanda L. Shelton Member	E-Vote	5/29/24	X		
Senator William A. Parkinson Member	E-Vote	5/28/24	X		
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata Member					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Member	E-Vote	5/29/24	X		
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas Member	E-Vote	5/29/24	X		
Senator Joanne M. Brown Minority Member	E-Vote	5/28/24	X		
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Minority Member					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher Minority Member					
Senator Telo T. Taitague Minority Member	E-Vote	5/28/24	X		
For Sponsor's Office Use Only					
Sponsor Signature: <i>Therese M. Terlaje</i>					
Staff Contact Person: Marie Cruz					
For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only					
9 Certified _____ Returned					
Name: Joaquin 'Quin' P. Taitague					
Date: May 29, 2024 at 11:51 a.m.					
Notes:					



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 37th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture

May 29, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Subject: **Notice of Presentation - Resolution No. 418-37 (COR)**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

Please join us for the presentation of **Resolution No. 418-37 (COR)** - "Relative to recognizing and congratulating Siñot John Raymond Aguon on the occasion of his retirement from the Valley of the Latte Adventure Park; and commending him for his thirty (30) years of service to the island community."

Resolution No. 418-37 (COR) will be presented on **Monday, June 3, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room.**

We look forward to your participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*