

**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
535-37 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing and commending the career and retirement of John T. Burch for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Guam through his leadership roles as Executive Director of the Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC), Acting Administrative Director of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC), his contributions to education, and his many years of service with the government of Guam.	9/24/24 3:52 p.m.	TBA						

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

Resolution No. 535-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Relative to recognizing and commending the career and retirement of John T. Burch for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Guam through his leadership roles as Executive Director of the Guam Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC), Acting Administrative Director of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC), his contributions to education, and his many years of service with the government of Guam.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***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

7 **WHEREAS**, John T. Burch graduated from Kaimuki Community School for
8 Adults in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1973, where he began to build a foundation for a life of
9 service and leadership; and

10 **WHEREAS**, John continued his education at the University of Guam, where he
11 earned a Bachelor of Business Administration in 1982, followed by a Master of Public
12 Administration in 1988, marking the beginning of his long and esteemed career with
13 the government of Guam; and

1 **WHEREAS**, prior to and while pursuing his education, John gained invaluable
2 experience in the field of electrical and electronics, spending ten years honing his
3 technical skills before transitioning into public service; and

4 **WHEREAS**, John began his career with the government of Guam in 1983 as a
5 Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, offering strategic guidance and
6 support during the governor's tenure; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in January 1984, John was appointed as the Deputy Director of the
8 Guam Energy Office, where he served until September 1984, demonstrating his
9 adaptability and commitment to improving the energy sector for the island; and

10 **WHEREAS**, John then became the Director of the Department of Youth Affairs,
11 a position he held until January 1987, where he worked tirelessly to advance youth
12 programs and initiatives for the betterment of Guam's young population; and

13 **WHEREAS**, from 1987 to 1991, John taught secondary education at Inarajan
14 Middle School, John F. Kennedy High School, Oceanview High School, and Untalan
15 Middle School, providing instruction in social studies and special education, furthering
16 his commitment to shaping the future of Guam's students; and

17 **WHEREAS**, he was also a dedicated member of the Guam Federation of
18 Teachers (AFT Local 1581) from May 1992 to December 2001, during which time he
19 held various leadership roles, including President, Treasurer, Chairperson of the
20 Committee on Political Education, Chairperson of the Guam Community College
21 (GCC) Faculty Union, and Chairperson of the Labor Council of the Western Pacific
22 AFL-CIO, advocating for teachers' rights and the advancement of educational
23 opportunities; and

24 **WHEREAS**, John served Guam Community College (GCC) in various
25 capacities from 1991 to 2001, teaching social science, serving as department chair for
26 both the Social Science and Criminal Justice departments, and eventually rising to the
27 position of Associate Professor, before retiring in December 2001; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on May 31, 2019, John was appointed to the Guam Education
2 Board, where he continued to contribute to Guam’s educational landscape, leveraging
3 his extensive experience and expertise in the field of education; and

4 **WHEREAS**, John has also been a successful entrepreneur, owning residential
5 housing rental units, further demonstrating his diverse skill set and commitment to the
6 island’s economic development; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as Executive Director of *I Kumisión i Tåno’ Saina-ta* ~ the Guam
8 Ancestral Lands Commission (GALC), John has played a crucial role in facilitating the
9 return of excess U.S. federal and Government of Guam lands to their original
10 landowners or their heirs, in accordance with Guam Public Law 25-45 and 25-178, and
11 in managing the “Land Bank” for dispossessed landowners, ensuring their ancestral
12 rights are honored; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on October 18, 2023, John was appointed Acting Administrative
14 Director of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission (CLTC), in addition to his duties at
15 GALC, where he has continued to serve the people of Guam with distinction following
16 the retirement of the former CLTC Administrative Director; and

17 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, John has been an advocate for the
18 preservation of Guam’s land rights, education, and community welfare, leaving an
19 indelible mark on the island’s government and its people; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after decades of public service and leadership, John is retiring,
21 having dedicated his career to the betterment of the island and the preservation of its
22 cultural and ancestral heritage; and

23 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* extends its deep appreciation to John T.
24 Burch for his outstanding service to the government and the people of Guam through
25 his leadership, as well as his impactful contributions as an educator, union leader, and
26 advocate for the community; now therefore be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
2 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize and commend the career and retirement of
3 John T. Burch for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Guam through his
4 leadership roles as Executive Director of the Guam Ancestral Lands Commission
5 (GALC), Acting Administrative Director of the CHamoru Land Trust Commission
6 (CLTC), his contributions to education, and his many years of service with the
7 government of Guam; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
9 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to John T. Burch;
10 and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2024.