

**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
558-37 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Jesse A. Lujan Frank Blas, Jr. Joanne M. Brown 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 the month of October 2024 as “Red Ribbon Month” and commending individuals participating in the 2024 Red Ribbon Campaign for their continued efforts in preventing drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse and for encouraging youth participation in “Red Ribbon Week” during October 23 through October 31, 2024.	10/14/24 11:09 a.m.	10/21/24 9:30 a.m.						

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

**Resolution No. 558-37 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*  
Sabina F. Perez *SFP*  
Chris Barnett *CB*  
Jesse A. Lujan *JAL*  
Frank Blas, Jr. *FB*  
Joanne Brown *JB*  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes *TRMB*  
Christopher M. Dueñas *CD*  
William A. Parkinson *WP*  
Roy A.B. Quinata *RAQ*  
Joe S. San Agustin *JS*  
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas *DTDSN*  
Amanda L. Shelton *AS*  
Telo T. Taitague *TT*

**Relative to recognizing the month of October 2024 as “Red Ribbon Month” and commending individuals participating in the 2024 Red Ribbon Campaign for their continued efforts in preventing drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse and for encouraging youth participation in “Red Ribbon Week” during October 23 through October 31, 2024.**

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

3 **WHEREAS,** the Red Ribbon Campaign, founded in 1985, has become the  
4 nation’s largest and longest-running drug-use prevention campaign. The campaign  
5 began after the tragic death of DEA agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was brutally  
6 murdered by drug traffickers. To honor his sacrifice, communities across the United

1 States began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raising awareness  
2 about the dangers of drug abuse; and

3 **WHEREAS**, with this year’s theme "*Life is A Movie, Film Drug Free.*"™  
4 Submitted by Cheryl Holsapfel, Digital Art Teacher, and Devansh Aggarwal from  
5 Solon Middle School in Ohio. It serves as a powerful reminder that ordinary Americans  
6 nationwide contribute significantly to their communities every day by embracing a  
7 drug-free lifestyle; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Red Ribbon Campaign has expanded over the years to include  
9 prevention efforts against tobacco and alcohol abuse, in addition to drug abuse. October  
10 23 through October 31 has been designated as "*Red Ribbon Week*," a time when  
11 communities nationwide unite to promote healthy, drug-free lifestyles, especially  
12 among the youth; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the latest data from the National Center on Drug Abuse Statistics  
14 reveals that drug overdose deaths in the United States have slightly decreased in 2023,  
15 marking the first annual decrease in five (5) years. Despite this progress, over one  
16 hundred thousand seven (107,000) lives were lost to drug overdoses, highlighting the  
17 ongoing need for effective prevention programs and community education; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in Guam, substance abuse remains a critical concern. According to  
19 the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center, the territory continues to face  
20 challenges related to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use, particularly among the youth. The  
21 Bureau of Statistics and Plans of Guam reports an alarming rate of youth involvement  
22 in substance abuse, making prevention campaigns like "*Red Ribbon Week*" essential to  
23 curbing these trends; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Red Ribbon Campaign has played a pivotal role in engaging  
25 young people in Guam and across the nation in drug prevention activities. The campaign  
26 empowers youth to make positive choices and reinforces the importance of living drug-  
27 free. Participation in "*Red Ribbon Week*" encourages students to engage in discussions  
28 about the consequences of drug use and to pledge to remain drug-free; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) most recent data  
2 indicates a significant portion of violent crimes, including homicides, are linked to drug  
3 use, particularly in cases involving illicit drugs such as heroin and cocaine. Drug  
4 trafficking and possession remain among the top reasons for arrests, contributing to a  
5 substantial portion of the criminal caseload across the country; and

6           **WHEREAS**, approximately forty percent (40%) of homicides in the United  
7 States (U.S.) involve alcohol use by the perpetrator. This includes instances where  
8 alcohol was consumed before or during the crime. Roughly thirty-seven percent (37%)  
9 of sexual assaults and rapes are committed by offenders under the influence of alcohol.  
10 Nearly ten thousand (10,000) deaths occur annually on U.S. roadways due to alcohol-  
11 related accidents, primarily from drunk driving. Alcohol is also involved in twenty-  
12 seven percent (27%) of aggravated assaults, and two-thirds of victims of intimate  
13 partner violence report that the perpetrator had been drinking; and

14           **WHEREAS**, alcohol remains a significant factor in violent crimes on the island,  
15 with a notable percentage of homicides and assaults being linked to alcohol  
16 consumption. Local reports indicate that alcohol was involved in approximately thirty-  
17 five percent (35%) of violent crimes, including domestic violence incidents and  
18 assaults; and

19           **WHEREAS**, drunk driving continues to be a serious issue on Guam, contributing  
20 to a significant portion of traffic-related fatalities and accidents. Law enforcement  
21 agencies have ramped up efforts to combat this, resulting in an increase in DUI arrests;  
22 and

23           **WHEREAS**, Guam has experienced a rise in drug-related crimes, particularly  
24 those involving methamphetamine, which remains the most commonly abused  
25 substance on the island. Methamphetamine-related arrests have increased, reflecting a  
26 broader trend in the Pacific region; and

27           **WHEREAS**, the Guam Police Department (GPD) reported that nearly forty  
28 percent (40%) of violent crimes, including homicides, had a direct link to drug use or

1 drug trafficking. This includes a disturbing rise in crimes involving the use of firearms  
2 connected to the drug trade; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, about thirteen point five percent (13.5%) of Guam adults  
4 reported using marijuana in the past 30 days, a slight increase from twelve point six  
5 percent (12.6%) in 2021. Among high school students, twenty-six percent (26%)  
6 reported current marijuana use, showing that youth usage remains markedly higher than  
7 that of adults; and

8 **WHEREAS**, around eleven percent (11%) of adults reported using illicit drugs  
9 other than marijuana in 2023. Methamphetamine remains a significant concern, with  
10 seven (7%) of high school students reporting having tried it. The misuse of prescription  
11 drugs, particularly pain medications, has increased slightly, with sixteen percent (16%)  
12 of high school students reporting taking prescription pain medication without a  
13 prescription. In 2023, thirty-seven percent (37%) of high school students reported being  
14 offered, sold, or given an illicit drug on school property, an increase from thirty-six  
15 percent (36%) in 2019; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the latest data shows a concerning rise in youth vaping on Guam.  
17 e-cigarette use among Guam's youth is triple than on the U.S. mainland. This issue has  
18 become widespread in schools, where flavored e-liquids are seen as a significant factor  
19 luring children into vaping; and

20 **WHEREAS**, a recent report from the Guam State Epidemiological Profile  
21 reveals that nearly twenty-seven percent (27%) of high school students and almost  
22 twenty-four percent (24%) of middle school students have used vaping products, further  
23 underscoring the critical need to address the growing youth vaping epidemic, which is  
24 exacerbated by the increasing availability and appeal of flavored e-cigarette products;  
25 and

26 **WHEREAS**, it is imperative that educators, parents, law enforcement, healthcare  
27 professionals, public officials, and our island community continue to collaborate in  
28 shaping a healthier future for Guam, one that is free from the devastating impacts of

1 drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse, through education, prevention, and support initiatives  
2 that empower our community to live healthier, drug-free lives; now therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*  
4 *Lihselaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the  
5 month of October 2024 as “*Red Ribbon Month*” and commending individuals  
6 participating in the 2024 Red Ribbon Campaign for their continued efforts in preventing  
7 drug, tobacco, and alcohol abuse and for encouraging youth participation in “*Red*  
8 *Ribbon Week*” during October 23 through October 31, 2024; and be it further

9 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
10 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
11 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Guam Department of Education, Guam  
12 National Guard Counterdrug Program; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero,  
13 *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

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