

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
597-37 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola for his contributions to the performing arts on Guam; and to congratulate his recognition as the inaugural recipient of the "Haligi Laureate" Award at the Guam Philharmonic Foundation's 2024 Saint Cecilia Music Gala.	11/25/24 2:23 p.m.	11/27/24 7:00 p.m.						

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

Resolution No. 597-37 (COR)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 

Relative to recognizing Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola for his contributions to the performing arts on Guam; and to congratulate his recognition as the inaugural recipient of the "Haligi Laureate" Award at the Guam Philharmonic Foundation's 2024 Saint Cecilia Music Gala.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Incorporated presents the
4 2024 Saint Cecilia Music Gala, its third annual celebration, to honor excellence in the
5 arts and community contributions; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the highlight of the 2024 Gala is the presentation of the inaugural
7 "Haligi Laureate" Award to Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola, recognizing his
8 pioneering work and unwavering commitment to the performing arts, which have
9 inspired generations of local artists and elevated the performing arts community in
10 Guam since the 1970s; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the "Haligi Laureate" designation is intended to be seldomly
12 awarded and reserved only for the most deserving community figures who have
13 distinguished themselves through significant contributions that have propelled the
14 musical arts on Guam; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola, a renowned Filipino theater
16 director, thespian, choreographer, designer, producer, and playwright, has made

1 significant contributions to the performing arts, earning acclaim in Guam, Cebu City,
2 Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City, and beyond; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Benjie’s artistic journey began during his formative years at
4 Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción, where he acted in school plays and studied ballet
5 under the guidance of mentors such as Montserrat Resano, Fe Sala-Villarica, and Justo
6 Montemayor, whose inspiration shaped his illustrious career; and

7 **WHEREAS**, his directorial debut, *The Evil Eye* (1973), an original dance drama,
8 marked the beginning of a prolific career that spanned decades and included
9 international show credits such as *Pippin*, *Oliver*, *The King and I*, *Jesus Christ*
10 *Superstar*, *West Side Story*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*, among others, solidifying his
11 reputation as a visionary in theater; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Benjie relocated to Guam in 1976, where he became a prominent
13 figure in the performing arts, directing plays, musicals, and cultural presentations for
14 private schools, community organizations, and government-sponsored events,
15 including the world premieres of Chamorro originals like *Guahu Taotao Tano* and *I*
16 *Lihenden Duendes*, and major spectacles such as the Micronesian Games and the South
17 Pacific Games ceremonies; and

18 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, Benjie has been a devoted mentor to aspiring
19 artists, fostering creativity and passion in theater while earning multiple accolades,
20 including the Governor’s Art Awards and Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994 from
21 Guam and Outstanding Citizen in the Field of Performing Arts from Cebu in 1973 and
22 1996, reflecting his enduring impact on the cultural landscapes of both Guam and the
23 Philippines; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Benjie’s enduring legacy has profoundly impacted the performing
25 arts community, paving the way for the Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Inc. to thrive
26 and inspire current and future generations of artists to pursue their dreams; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in recognition of his lifetime of achievements, the “Haligi
28 Laureate” Award acknowledges Mr. Diola’s decades of dedication, creativity, and
29 leadership, which have laid the foundation for the continued growth and development

1 of the performing arts on Guam, at the 2024 Saint Cecilia Music Gala, presented by the
2 Guam Philharmonic Foundation, Inc., symbolizing his status as a pillar of the arts; now
3 therefore, be it

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na*
5 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize
6 Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola for his contributions to the performing arts on Guam;
7 and to congratulate his recognition as the inaugural recipient of the "Haligi Laureate"
8 Award at the Guam Philharmonic Foundation's 2024 Saint Cecilia Music Gala; and be
9 it further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Committee on Rules Chairperson certify,
11 and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same
12 be thereafter transmitted to Benedicto "Benjie" Yuson Diola; and to the Honorable
13 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 DAY OF
2024.**