



I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO 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
51-38 (COR)	V. Anthony Ada Vincent A.V. Borja	Relative to recognizing and commemorating the seventieth (70th) annual observance of "Stewardship Week" from April 27 through May 4, 2025, with the theme: "Home is Where the Habitat is" and commending our dedicated soil and water conservation districts and their partners for their service in protecting Guam's natural resources.	4/23/25 4:12 p.m.	5/3/25 7:15 p.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 51-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

V. Anthony Ada 
Vincent A.V. Borja 

Relative to recognizing and commemorating the seventieth (70th) annual observance of “Stewardship Week” from April 27 through May 4, 2025, with the theme: “Home is Where the Habitat is” and commending our dedicated soil and water conservation districts and their partners for their service in protecting Guam’s natural resources.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, beginning in 1932, drought conditions across the Great Plains in
4 the United States of America resulted in widespread crop failures, exposing the soil to
5 winds that led to dust storms that became more intense and frequent over the next few
6 years, highlighting the severity of the erosion crisis across America; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) drafted the
8 Standard State Soil Conservation Districts Act, creating a framework of cooperation to
9 establish democratically organized soil conservation districts to lead conservation
10 planning efforts at the local level to extend conservation assistance to more farmers.
11 President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended that the Standard State Soil
12 Conservation Districts Act be signed into law by all state governors and, by July of
13 1945, all forty-eight (48) states had passed district-enabling acts; and

1 **WHEREAS**, conservation districts continued to grow and, on July 25, 1946,
2 eighteen (18) representatives from seventeen (17) states created the National
3 Association of Soil Conservation District Governing Officials. The first annual meeting
4 the following year saw representation of forty-two (42) out of forty-eight (48) states
5 and, in 1970, the association shortened their name to the National Association of
6 Conservation Districts (NACD); and

7 **WHEREAS**, NACD is a nonprofit organization with a presence in all fifty (50)
8 states, the District of Columbia and the territories of American Samoa, the Federated
9 States of Micronesia, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Puerto Rico and the
10 Virgin Islands, representing three thousand (3,000) conservation districts and the
11 seventeen thousand (17,000) individuals who serve on their governing boards as local
12 units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource
13 management programs at the local level; and

14 **WHEREAS**, NACD’s mission is to promote responsible management and
15 conservation of natural resources on all lands by representing locally led conservation
16 districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1955, the NACD established “Stewardship Week”, observed
19 every year from the last Sunday of April to the first Sunday of May, to bring together
20 dedicated conservationists to organize outreach events and educational learning
21 experiences for the community to increase awareness about the importance of natural
22 resource conservation and educated the public on the importance of soil health, water
23 quality, and pollinator habitat; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Guam’s limestone and tropical forests are comprised of hundreds
2 of tree and plant species that support and maintain a unique biodiversity and ecosystem,
3 home to flora and fauna native to Guam and the Marianas Archipelago; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Guam’s forests are an integral part of our survival by mitigating
5 flooding and erosion, protecting our sources of water and coral reefs from
6 contamination, sedimentation and run-off; absorbing heat-trapping greenhouse gasses;
7 and providing sustenance, beauty, healing and sustainability; and

8 **WHEREAS**, forty-one percent (41%) of our land comprises forests located on
9 northern limestone soil and on volcanic soil in the south that support grasslands,
10 savannas and forest fragments in sheltered and leeward sites, riparian land adjacent to
11 rivers and streams, mangrove sites near the shore and wetland ecosystems with unique
12 aquatic plants; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the conservation of our soil is vital to the regulation of drainage
14 flowing into our waters; the cycling of nutrients and nourishment of our plant and
15 animal life; filtering and buffering of potential pollutants; providing stability and
16 support to plant roots and human structures; and the preservation of our historical
17 treasures; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2011, Public Law 31-125 established the Guam Northern and
19 Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts to work with government agencies and
20 private landowners to promote the conservation of Guam’s soil and water resources;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, also enacted in 2011, Public Law 31-173, known as the “Guam
23 Forestry Legacy Act of 2012”, was established to create the Guam Forest System, with
24 the intention to protect and conserve the island’s forests, natural resources and habitats,
25 outlining objectives such as balancing the use of resources, deterring irresponsible and

1 irreversible environmental damage, increasing education and research for preservation,
2 and maintaining and restoring Guam’s ecosystems; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the conservation districts on Guam are proud partners and members
4 of the NACD, engaging with local and federal stakeholders to promote stewardship
5 through the conservation of Guam’s soil. Water, and natural resources for our island
6 and our future; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with only 12% of Guam’s limestone forests remaining, it is even
8 more critical to preserve what remains and, through the efforts of our conservation
9 districts, community partners and stakeholders as stewards of our fragile ecosystem, we
10 can take reasonable and deliberate steps to mitigate harm caused by human activities,
11 demand accountability for environmental destruction, call for equitable environmental
12 justice, support policies that protect Guam’s forestry and promote conservation; now
13 therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
15 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
16 of Guam, recognize and commemorate the seventieth (70th) annual observance of
17 “Stewardship Week” from April 27 through May 4, 2025 with the theme: “Home is
18 Where the Habitat is” and commend our dedicated soil and water conservation districts
19 and their partners for their service in protecting Guam’s natural resources; and be it
20 further

21 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
22 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
23 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and to
24 the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF MONTH 2025.**

FRANK F. BLAS, JR.
Speaker

V. ANTHONY ADA
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

SABRINA SALAS MATANANE
Legislative Secretary