

Resolution No. 245-37 (COR)

Introduced by

Jesse A. Tujan
Christopher M. Durães
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Jose S. San Agustin
Frank Blas, Jr.
Telo T. Taitague
Amanda L. Shelton
William A. Parkinson
Joanne Brown
Therese M. Terlaje
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Roy A. B. Quinata

Chris Barnett
Thomas J. Usher
Sabina Flores Perez



Relative to recognizing the members of the non-profit organization *I Hinanao, I Magahet Yan I Ininna* (HMI); and commending them for their support and assistance to veterans, and for their continuous contributions to the local veteran community of Guam and abroad.

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

WHEREAS, *I Hinanao, I Magahet Yan I Ininna* (HMI) is a non-profit organization dedicated to assisting veterans with their claims and benefits. Utilizing the latest information, research, personal experience, and official resources available, members of the organization have been able to successfully assist veterans in navigating the claims process and achieving desirable outcomes with the Veterans Affairs Administration (VA), and

WHEREAS, HMI was founded by local veterans in 2019, and strives to be a vital resource, providing a variety of services to veterans. Under the leadership of Bill Salisbury, Brian Hahn, Matthew Charfauros, Anthony Tujeron, and with the support of their spouses, the non-profit is comprised of over one thousand two hundred (1200) hundred veterans who are committed to ensuring that all veterans receive the resources and benefits to which they are rightfully entitled. Additionally, active claims guidance is also facilitated by members which include: Kenny King, Chuck Ellis, Dr. Ugochukwu Akoma, VFW Veteran Service Officer Allen Turner, Chris Toran, Vic Pasctes, Vince Acfalle, Joaquin "Kin" Pangelinan, Rodney Perez, Rhodel Sevilla, Frances Torres, Barbara Cruz, Vince Borja, Mike Santos, Major General Benny Paulino, John Pangelinan, Genelyn Paz, Bernice Parke, Corina Ballesta, and Julie Quinata, and

WHEREAS, the organization has grown into a much-needed asset to Guam as they continue to contribute to the veteran community and work to improve the welfare of each veteran. As veterans themselves, the members are dedicated to assisting other veterans, approaching each case with care and consideration for the veteran and their families, and

WHEREAS, despite the hardships and restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization continued to provide assistance to veterans through a combination of digital outreaches and limited in-person engagements, and

WHEREAS, HMI is committed to being accessible to veterans across the island and holds claims bootcamps in various villages. Conducted with volunteers such as Janeen Yurko, Faleen Quichocho, and Haven Torres, HMI spreads awareness of their services and makes themselves available to veterans in their vicinity, and

WHEREAS, HMI also partners with local businesses, the American Legion Post 1, and Haagen Dazs to set up booths and provide assistance; and has collaborated with local veterans Richard Taitague and Manny Hechanova to hold the Second (2nd) Annual Veterans Run, and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of Bobbie Taitano, a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Auxiliary, HMI organized its Second (2nd) Annual Symposium, where veterans and island leaders discuss VA processes and services, as well as the first-ever Veterans Gala, raising awareness of veteran issues on Guam, and

WHEREAS, HMI partnered with Guam Senator Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas and his staff members, Ursula Cruz and Isaiah Aguon, to form the Leaders Task Force, which brings together representatives from various organizations, the VA, and in coordination with Savana Baza from Guam Delegate James C. Moylan's office to combine their background and expertise to improve the lives of veterans, and

WHEREAS, members of the non-profit organization actively engage with the community to provide outreach and assistance to veterans and works with businesses such as Ambros Inc., who has two (2) major shareholders who are Vietnam War veterans, and

WHEREAS, in addition to their regular claims bootcamps, HMI has expanded its services to also conduct claims bootcamps for federal contractor businesses and local businesses, and the services and resources of HMI are not limited to veterans on Guam, as the non-profit has also extended its assistance to veterans in the United States, Yap, Chuuk, and Japan, and

WHEREAS, the organization has established direct lines of communication through Whatsapp group chats for local veterans and a group chat for veterans in the CNMI, effectively increasing accessibility to the members of HMI and their resources, and

WHEREAS, the mission of HMI is to empower veterans and their families through education and advocacy; and the organization has brought in millions of dollars to the island of Guam through their educational assistance programs, and

WHEREAS, the members of HMI, including Julie Quinata, have attended grant-writing classes to secure more funding to benefit the non-profit organization and the people they assist, and

WHEREAS, HMI has also supported a successful appeal for the spouse of a deceased veteran, and started a new helpline for families of veterans in need, and

WHEREAS, through the radio show, Vet Talk with Johnny Taitano, HMI has created a platform to educate veterans about the VA process and guide them towards successfully navigating their claims and benefits, and

WHEREAS, the organization provides additional support through Zoom calls and online coaching sessions on Sundays to ensure that veterans receive the guidance and help they need, and

WHEREAS, HMI organizes symposiums and galas to increase community involvement and raise awareness of veteran issues on Guam, and spearheads outreaches to businesses on Guam to promote active support in the private sector for veteran activities, and

WHEREAS, HMI has advocated and supported the spouses of deceased veterans to appeal and has won such appeals, and it is HMI's commitment to ensure veterans and their families have an avenue and support structure to assist them, and

WHEREAS, HMI is the only organization on Guam that provides this type of service to veterans, and it has made a significant difference in the lives of many veterans and their families, and

WHEREAS, HMI is dedicated to supporting and helping veterans on Guam and abroad, and its work has made a significant impact in the lives of many veterans and their families, and is a vital resource for veterans on Guam and around the world, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'Trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guahan* and the people of Guam, recognize the members of the non-profit organization *I Hinanao, I Magahet Yan I Ininna* (HMI), and commend them for their support and assistance to veterans, and for their continuous contributions to the local veteran community of Guam and abroad, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members of *I Hinanao, I Magahet Yan I Ininna*, and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guahan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN* ON THE 8TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2023.


THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker


CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

