

Resolution No. 331-37 (COR)

Introduced by

Jesse A. Lujan

Chris Barnett	Sabina Flores Perez
Frank Blas, Jr	Roy A. B. Quinata
Joanne Brown	Joe S. San Agustin
Christopher M. Dueñas	Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Thomas J. Fisher	Amanda L. Shelton
Tina Rose Muña Barnes	Telo T. Tarague
William A. Parkinson	Therese M. Terlaje



Relative to recognizing Dr. Ann Pobutsky for her work with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services; and commending her for her leadership and dedication to the broader field of public health.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:

WHEREAS, Dr. Ann Pobutsky has demonstrated necessary leadership in utilizing the tools of epidemiology to support the mission of the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services, encouraging colleagues and communities alike; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, and came to Guam as a college student in 1979, where she transferred to and graduated from the University of Guam. At the University of Guam, Ann worked with Dr. Lawrence Kasperbauer, the Director of the Community Development Institute (CRD-CALS), as a research assistant and survey interviewer, participating in Dr. Kasperbauer's studies about the community of Guam from 1980 to 1984. These applied studies included health and other community-based needs assessment surveys. Dr. Pobutsky then worked as a planner at Government of Guam Civil Defense before returning to Michigan to teach and pursue a Masters degree; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky's education includes the College of Charleston, South Carolina from 1977 to 1979, then she transferred to the University of Guam where she graduated with her BA in Sociology in 1983. Three years later, in 1986 Dr. Pobutsky earned her MA in Sociology from Wayne State University. Dr. Pobutsky furthered her studies and earned her PhD in Sociology/Demography from the University of Hawaii-Manoa in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky returned to Guam in 1986 and worked as a survey coordinator and research assistant with Dr. John Steele, Neurologist at the USNH Veterans Clinic, and Ms. Debbie Quinata on the NIH-NINCDS Epidemiological Survey of Neurological Diseases in Rural Guam. This survey was conducted by the NIH-NINCDS to re-assess point prevalence of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), known locally as "lytico" and parkinsonism-dementia, known locally as "bodig." This important survey showed that ALS had decreased, but parkinsonism-dementia had increased; and

WHEREAS, after the "Lytico-Bodig" Survey was completed in 1988, Dr. Pobutsky joined the Bureau of Planning in the Health and Social Planning Section from 1989 to 1990. During this time, one of the projects included an assessment of HIV-AIDS risk in Guam's population, which was conducted as a joint effort between the Bureau of Planning (BOP), the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) and the University of Guam Community Development Institute; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 1996, Dr. Pobutsky pursued her PhD at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and received a Fellowship at the East-West Center Population Institute. Her dissertation was titled "Economics and fertility: Changing family structure among Chamorros on the island of Guam." From 1997 to 1998 Dr. Pobutsky returned to the UOG Community Development Institute and worked on an assessment of people with disabilities on Guam. She then went to Portland, Oregon and was an Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Public Health from 1998 to 2001 at the Oregon Health and Sciences University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky returned to Hawaii in 2002 and worked as a Senior Project Coordinator at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center on the Family. From 2003 to 2014, Dr. Pobutsky worked as an Epidemiologist with the Hawaii State Department of Health working on chronic diseases and their risk factors, maternal and child health, health disparities and health planning. She continued to work at both the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and the State of Hawaii from 2015 to 2018. Her work has focused on addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health through data driven, evidence based public health in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, after twenty-two (22) years away from Guam, Dr. Pobutsky returned to the island in November 2018, to assume the role of the Territorial Epidemiologist at DPHSS. During this past five (5) years, Dr. Pobutsky has worked on addressing infectious diseases on Guam (e.g., dengue, Shigellosis, leptospirosis, COVID-19, influenza, leprosy etcetera), with a focus on addressing on-going health disparities and the social determinants of health impacting infectious diseases but also chronic diseases and maternal child health issues; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky's professional experience includes Census Enumerator, Department of Commerce, Government of Guam, *Hagåtña* in 1980; Survey Interviewer and Research Assistant, University of Guam, Community Development Institute (CRD-CALS), Mangilao from 1980 to 1984; Planner I, Guam Emergency Services Office, Government of Guam, *Hagåtña* from 1983 to 1984; Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, from 1984 to 1986; Instructor in Sociology, University of Maryland, U.S. Naval Station, Guam from 1987 to 1988; Epidemiological Survey Coordinator, Survey for Neurological Diseases in Rural Guam, National Institutes of Health-NINCDS Research Center, USNH, from 1987 to 1988; Planner II & Planner III, Health Planning Information Section & Social and Health Planning Section, Bureau of Planning, Government of Guam, *Hagåtña*, from 1989 to 1990; Fellow, EastWest Center, Program on Population and Health, Honolulu, Hawaii, from 1990 to 1995; Research Associate, University of Guam, Community Development Institute (CRD-CALS), Mangilao, from 1996 to 1997; Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Public Health & Preventive Medicine, Oregon Office on Disability and Health, Oregon Health & Sciences University, Portland, from 1998 to 2001; Senior Project Coordinator, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center on the Family (CTAHR) Data Center, from 2002 to 2003; and Chronic Disease Epidemiologist, Community Health Division and Chronic Disease Management and Control Branch, from 2003 to 2009; Research Analyst, Chronic Disease Branch and Maternal-Child Health Branch, from 2010 to 2013; Hawaii State Department of Health: Research Statistician, State Health



Planning and Development Agency and Office of Program Improvement, from 2013 to 2014; Population Health Specialist and Data Analyst, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center on the Family, from 2015 to 2016; Research Analyst, State of Hawaii, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy, from 2016-2018; and Territorial Epidemiologist, government of Guam, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Office of Epidemiology and Research from 2018 to 2024; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky's professional and scientific participation includes National Expert Panel Member on Social Determinants of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 2007 to 2009; Grant reviewer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Research Centers-Special Interest Projects, in 2009; Socio-economic Status Related Cancer Disparities-Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program, American Psychological Association, from 2012 to 2013; Hawaii Department of Health, Institutional Review Board member, from 2003 to 2014; Co-Chair, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, Health Equity Interest Group (now the Health Equity Council), from 2006 to 2008 and Steering Committee member from 2005 to present; and Journal article reviewer for Preventing Chronic Disease, the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, Progress in Community Health Partnerships, the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved, the Hawaii Journal of Medicine and Public Health and Pacific Health Dialog; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, Dr. Pobutsky was honored with the Special Recognition Award, National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, for leadership and development of the Health Equity Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 Dr. Pobutsky was nominated for the Ancient Order of the Chamorri Governor's Award by Debbie Quinata, and is supported in her nomination with the references of Dr. Larry Kasperbauer, Ms. Linda Cruz Ortiz, and Dr. Asherdee Duenas Rosete for her outstanding work in promoting health of indigenous CHamorus and all the people of Guam, and other Pacific peoples over the past four decades; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Pobutsky's illustrious career and exemplary service extends beyond Guam, encompassing roles in Oregon and Hawaii, where she made significant contributions to chronic disease prevention, maternal and child health, and health planning, further solidifying her reputation as a visionary leader in the field of epidemiology; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize Dr. Ann Pobutsky for her work with the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services; and commend her for her leadership and dedication to the broader field of public health; 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 Dr. Ann Pobutsky, Territorial Epidemiologist of Guam; Peter John Camacho, Director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services

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 Honorable Kevin J.T. Susuico, Mayor of *Hågat*, the Honorable Christopher J. Fejeran, Vice Mayor of *Hågat*, to the *Hågat* Municipal Planning Council; to the Honorable Carol Sablan Tayama, former Mayor of *Hågat*; and to the Honorable 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 27TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2024.


THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker


CHRIS BARNETT
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


MANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

