

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
104-38 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustín Frank F. Blas, Jr. V. Anthony Ada Sabrina Salas Matanane William A. Parkinson Therese M. Terlaje Jesse A. Lujan Christopher M. Duchas Chris Barnett Telo T. Taitague Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Shelly V. Calvo Sabina Flores Perez Vincent A.V. Borja	Relative to recognizing Attorney Julian Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commending him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide.	10/3/25 8:58 a.m.	10/10/25 9:00 a.m.	10/3/25 8:58 a.m.					

Resolution No. 104-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Joe S. San Agustín
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
V. Anthony Ada
Sabrina Salas Matanane
William A. Parkinson
Therese M. Terlaje
Jesse A. Lujan
Christopher M. Dueñas
Chris Barnett
Telo T. Taitague
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Shelly V. Calvo
Sabina Flores Perez
Vincent A.V. Borja



Relative to recognizing Attorney Julian Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commending him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, Attorney Aguon, born and raised in Guam, founded Blue Ocean Law to bring Indigenous rights and environmental justice to the forefront of international law, and under his leadership, the firm has represented frontline communities across Oceania in landmark struggles for sovereignty, justice, and survival; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Aguon has devoted his career to defending human rights, Indigenous sovereignty, and environmental justice across Oceania, earning distinction as both a lawyer and an author of acclaimed works such as *No Country for Eight-Spot Butterflies* and *To Hell with Drowning*, which gained recognition from the Pulitzer Prize; and

WHEREAS, his essay *To Hell With Drowning*, which gave voice to the human cost of climate change, was named a finalist in Commentary for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Commentary, one of the most prestigious recognitions in global letters; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his legal and literary work, Attorney Aguon was selected as the Dan and Maggie Inouye Distinguished Chair in Democratic Ideals at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa for Fall 2024, during which he mentored law students, co-taught Pacific Island Legal Systems, and inspired future generations of advocates for justice; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Aguon and his team worked alongside Pacific leaders and communities to combine international law, Indigenous perspectives, and cultural values into a legal strategy that not only persuaded the Court, but also honored the traditions and experiences of island peoples; and

WHEREAS, on July 23, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered an Advisory Opinion on Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change, declaring that countries are legally bound to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard the rights of present and future generations, assist climate-vulnerable nations, and provide reparations for harms caused by climate inaction; and

WHEREAS, the ICJ's decision has been described as one of the most consequential in its history, affirming that failure to act on climate change is not only a moral failure but an internationally wrongful act with legal consequences; and

WHEREAS, the campaign to bring this case before the ICJ was first initiated by Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), a youth-led organization formed in 2019 by law students from the University of the South Pacific, who mobilized support across Oceania and built a global coalition to give Pacific peoples a voice in international law; and

WHEREAS, this campaign gained crucial momentum in March 2023 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution, spearheaded by the Republic of Vanuatu, requesting the ICJ to issue an Advisory Opinion on climate obligations, with over 130 nations co-sponsoring the measure, a landmark display of global solidarity with the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Vanuatu, supported by a coalition of small island states, carried this effort forward to the ICJ, entrusting legal representation to Blue Ocean Law, the Guam-based international human rights firm founded by Attorney Julian Aguon; and

WHEREAS, in October 2025, Attorney Aguon and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change were jointly awarded the Right Livelihood Award, often called the "Alternative Nobel Prize," in recognition of their groundbreaking work to secure a historic ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate obligations and for amplifying the struggles and leadership of island communities on the global stage; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Vanuatu has demonstrated visionary leadership in spearheading the initiative to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate change and human rights, marking a historic moment in international law; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), a youth-led organization, has played a critical role in mobilizing grassroots support, amplifying islander voices, and advancing global awareness of the existential threats posed by climate change; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Aguon has consistently described writing and storytelling as essential to advocacy, reminding the world that climate justice is not abstract, but a matter of survival for Pacific peoples whose homelands, traditions, and futures are imperiled by rising seas; and

WHEREAS, the collective efforts of Attorney Aguon, the Republic of Vanuatu, and PISFCC have elevated the moral and legal imperative for climate action, inspiring communities worldwide to stand in solidarity with vulnerable nations and peoples; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Julian Aguon has long championed the rights of Indigenous and island peoples, using his voice and legal expertise to advocate for environmental justice and human rights across the Pacific and beyond; and now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize Attorney Julian Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commend him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide; and be it further

RESOLVED, the collective efforts of Attorney Aguon, the Republic of Vanuatu, and PISFCC have elevated the moral and legal imperative for climate action, inspiring communities worldwide to stand in solidarity with vulnerable nations and peoples; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Julian Aguon; Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change; The Honourable Jotham Napat, Prime Minister of Vanuatu; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



Alan Cepeda Ues 10/10/25 @ 1:34 PM
GDT

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

Resolution No. 104-38 (LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Joe S. San Agustin
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
V. Anthony Ada
Sabrina Salas Matanane
William A. Parkinson
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Relative to recognizing Attorney Julian Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commending him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide.

BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, Attorney Aguon, born and raised in Guam, founded Blue Ocean Law to bring Indigenous rights and environmental justice to the forefront of international law, and under his leadership, the firm has represented frontline

1 communities across Oceania in landmark struggles for sovereignty, justice, and
2 survival; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Attorney Aguon has devoted his career to defending human rights,
4 Indigenous sovereignty, and environmental justice across Oceania, earning distinction
5 as both a lawyer and an author of acclaimed works such as *No Country for Eight-Spot*
6 *Butterflies* and *To Hell with Drowning*,, which gained recognition from the Pulitzer
7 Prize; and

8 **WHEREAS**, his essay *To Hell With Drowning*, which gave voice to the human
9 cost of climate change, was named a finalist in Commentary for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize
10 in Commentary, one of the most prestigious recognitions in global letters; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in addition to his legal and literary work, Attorney Aguon was
12 selected as the Dan and Maggie Inouye Distinguished Chair in Democratic Ideals at the
13 University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa for Fall 2024, during which he mentored law students,
14 co-taught Pacific Island Legal Systems, and inspired future generations of advocates for
15 justice; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Attorney Aguon and his team worked alongside Pacific leaders and
17 communities to combine international law, Indigenous perspectives, and cultural values
18 into a legal strategy that not only persuaded the Court, but also honored the traditions
19 and experiences of island peoples; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on July 23, 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) delivered
21 an Advisory Opinion on *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*, declaring
22 that countries are legally bound to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard the
23 rights of present and future generations, assist climate-vulnerable nations, and provide
24 reparations for harms caused by climate inaction; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the ICJ’s decision has been described as one of the most
26 consequential in its history, affirming that failure to act on climate change is not only a
27 moral failure but an internationally wrongful act with legal consequences; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the campaign to bring this case before the ICJ was first initiated by
2 Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), a youth-led organization
3 formed in 2019 by law students from the University of the South Pacific, who mobilized
4 support across Oceania and built a global coalition to give Pacific peoples a voice in
5 international law; and

6 **WHEREAS**, this campaign gained crucial momentum in March 2023 when the
7 United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution, spearheaded by
8 the Republic of Vanuatu, requesting the ICJ to issue an Advisory Opinion on climate
9 obligations, with over 130 nations co-sponsoring the measure, a landmark display of
10 global solidarity with the Pacific; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Vanuatu, supported by a coalition of small island
12 states, carried this effort forward to the ICJ, entrusting legal representation to Blue
13 Ocean Law, the Guam-based international human rights firm founded by Attorney
14 Julian Aguon; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in October 2025, Attorney Aguon and Pacific Island Students
16 Fighting Climate Change were jointly awarded the Right Livelihood Award, often
17 called the “Alternative Nobel Prize,” in recognition of their groundbreaking work to
18 secure a historic ICJ Advisory Opinion on climate obligations and for amplifying the
19 struggles and leadership of island communities on the global stage; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Vanuatu has demonstrated visionary leadership in
21 spearheading the initiative to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of
22 Justice on climate change and human rights, marking a historic moment in international
23 law; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC), a
25 youth-led organization, has played a critical role in mobilizing grassroots support,
26 amplifying islander voices, and advancing global awareness of the existential threats
27 posed by climate change; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Attorney Aguon has consistently described writing and storytelling
2 as essential to advocacy, reminding the world that climate justice is not abstract, but a
3 matter of survival for Pacific peoples whose homelands, traditions, and futures are
4 imperiled by rising seas; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the collective efforts of Attorney Aguon, the Republic of Vanuatu,
6 and PISFCC have elevated the moral and legal imperative for climate action, inspiring
7 communities worldwide to stand in solidarity with vulnerable nations and peoples; and

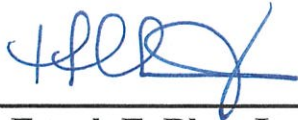
8 **WHEREAS**, Attorney Julian Aguon has long championed the rights of
9 Indigenous and island peoples, using his voice and legal expertise to advocate for
10 environmental justice and human rights across the Pacific and beyond; and now
11 therefore, be it

12 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
13 behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, recognize Attorney Julian
14 Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his
15 leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commend
16 him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change
17 (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide; and be
18 it further

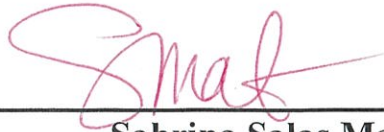
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20 and PISFCC have elevated the moral and legal imperative for climate action, inspiring
21 communities worldwide to stand in solidarity with vulnerable nations and peoples; and
22 be it further

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
24 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Julian Aguon;
25 Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change; The Honourable Jotham Napat, Prime
26 Minister of Vanuatu; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
27 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



SENATOR TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

38th Guam Legislature

October 9, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators
38th Guam Legislature
From: Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Subject: Presentation of Resolution No. 104-38 (LS)

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

Please join me in presenting Resolution No. 104-38 (LS) - **Tina Rose Muna Barnes** - "Relative to recognizing Attorney Julian Aguon for his distinguished contributions in law, literature, and academia, and his leadership in the historic International Court of Justice climate ruling; and commending him, the Republic of Vanuatu, and Pacific Island Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC) for their efforts in advancing the voices of island peoples worldwide."

Presentation will be held in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building on Friday, October 10, 2025 which begins at 2pm.

We look forward to your participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!