

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
170-38 (COR)	Frank F. Blas Jr.	Relative to recognizing and supporting the observance of National Safe Boating Week 2026 in Guam, and to promoting boating safety education and responsible maritime practices throughout the island community.	4/29/26 9:36 a.m.	5/16/26 10:00 a.m.						

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 170-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

Frank F. Blas, Jr. *fy*

Relative to recognizing and supporting the observance of National Safe Boating Week 2026 in Guam, and to promoting boating safety education and responsible maritime practices throughout the island community.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam, as an island community surrounded by the vast Pacific
4 Ocean, has a deep cultural, economic, and recreational connection to maritime
5 activities, making boating safety a matter of public importance; and

6 **WHEREAS**, National Safe Boating Week is observed annually to promote safe
7 boating practices and to reduce preventable accidents, injuries, and fatalities on the
8 water; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard publishes annual Recreational
10 Boating Statistics to inform the public and policymakers of trends, risks, and
11 opportunities for improving safety; and

12 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2025 Recreational Boating Statistics Report, there
13 were five hundred fifty-six (556) boating fatalities nationwide, representing a 1.4
14 percent decrease from the previous year, yet still reflecting a significant loss of life; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the same report documented two thousand one hundred seventy
2 (2,170) non-fatal injuries, marking a 2.1 percent increase and highlighting ongoing risks
3 faced by recreational boaters; and

4 **WHEREAS**, total property damage resulting from recreational boating incidents
5 is estimated at eighty-eight million dollars (\$88,000,000), demonstrating the substantial
6 economic impact of boating accidents; and

7 **WHEREAS**, alcohol use remains the leading known contributing factor in fatal
8 boating accidents, accounting for twenty percent (20%) of all fatalities, emphasizing
9 the dangers of boating under the influence; and

10 **WHEREAS**, additional contributing factors include operator inattention,
11 improper lookout, operator inexperience, and machinery failure, all of which are largely
12 preventable through education, vigilance, and proper maintenance; and

13 **WHEREAS**, drowning was the reported cause of death in seventy-six percent
14 (76%) of all boating fatalities, underscoring the critical importance of water survival
15 preparedness; and

16 **WHEREAS**, eighty-seven percent (87%) of drowning victims were not wearing
17 a life jacket at the time of the incident, demonstrating the life-saving value of personal
18 flotation devices; and

19 **WHEREAS**, sixty-nine percent (69%) of deaths occurred on vessels where the
20 operator had not received any formal boating safety instruction, revealing a significant
21 gap in education and awareness; and

22 **WHEREAS**, only nineteen percent (19%) of fatalities involved operators who
23 held a nationally approved boating safety education certificate, illustrating the
24 effectiveness of proper training in preventing accidents; and

25 **WHEREAS**, these statistics collectively underscore the urgent need to promote
26 boating safety education, responsible operation, and adherence to safety regulations
27 with Guam's waters; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam benefit from the preservation of safe
2 recreational waterways for fishing, transportation, tourism, and family activities; and

3 **WHEREAS**, public awareness campaigns, community outreach, and
4 collaboration among agencies, non-profit organizations, and local stakeholders are
5 essential to fostering a culture of safety on the water; and

6 **WHEREAS**, National Safe Boating Week provides an opportunity to educate
7 residents and visitors alike on the importance of wearing life jackets, avoiding alcohol
8 while operating vessels, completing boating safety courses, and maintain proper vessel
9 equipment; now, therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
11 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
12 of Guam, recognize and support the observance of National Safe Boating Week 2026;
13 and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that the 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 further calls upon relevant agencies, community organizations, and maritime
17 stakeholders to continue promoting boating safety awareness and education across the
18 island; and be it further

19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
20 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
21 the same be thereafter transmitted to Captain Jessica S. Worst, Commander, Coast
22 Guard Sector Guam; Commander Patton J. Epperson, Deputy Sector Commander;
23 Master Chief Jeremy V. Thomas, Command Master Chief; the United States Coast
24 Guard Auxiliary Guam Flotilla; AFSO- PA Fred Alig; the Guam Boating Law
25 Administrator's Office; the Guam Police Department Maritime Patrol; the Guam Fire
26 Department Rescue Units; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
27 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF 2026.**

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary