

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
214-38 (COR)	Telo T. Taitague Sabrina Salas Matanane Joe S. San Agustin Christopher M. Dueñas Frank F. Blas, Jr. William A. Parkinson Jesse A. Lujan Shelly V. Calvo Therese M. Terlaje Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Chris Barnett Sabina Flores Perez Vincent A.V. Borja V. Anthony Ada Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; and the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commending its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam	9/4/26 10:17 a.m.	9/16/26 2:00 p.m.	9/11/26 11:43 a.m.					

Resolution No. 214-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

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



Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; and the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commending its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam.

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

WHEREAS, Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) is a Guam-based nonprofit organization whose history dates back to 1982, when Beverly Paulk and U.S. Navy psychiatrist Gene Tinelli recognized the need for an organized community response for victims of sexual assault and abuse; the organization was originally established as Counseling Advocates Reaching Out (CARO), bringing together civilian and military volunteers and coordinating with hospitals, law enforcement, and the court system; and

WHEREAS, the first CARO volunteer group consisted of twenty-five (25) trained individuals who provided support and a safe space for victims; as the organization's role grew, its services expanded beyond its original mission, and in 1989 CARO became Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO), reflecting its broader commitment to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of violence and trauma that affect individuals and families on Guam; and

WHEREAS, VARO was established in response to the growing need for victim advocacy services on the island, recognizing that victims of crime often face significant emotional, psychological, and financial challenges in the aftermath of their experiences; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, VARO has provided a comprehensive range of services aimed at supporting victims through every stage of their recovery, including crisis intervention, advocacy, a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and housing support, crisis counseling and therapeutic services, safety planning, legal advocacy, and support during court proceedings, ensuring that no victim is left without the help and resources they need; and

WHEREAS, VARO has played a critical role in bridging the gap between victims and essential community services by collaborating with local law enforcement, legal professionals, healthcare providers, government agencies, and other organizations to create a network of care that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of victims; and

WHEREAS, through ongoing outreach, education, and advocacy efforts, VARO has raised public awareness of the challenges faced by victims, actively engaging the community in conversations about violence, victimization, and the steps that can be taken to reduce and prevent these crimes; and

WHEREAS, VARO has been instrumental in empowering victims to regain control over their lives by offering programs that focus on healing and recovery, helping them navigate the legal system, secure restraining orders, and find safe and stable housing, while also advocating for stronger protections and policies to safeguard their rights; and

WHEREAS, over the years, VARO has expanded its services to meet the evolving needs of Guam's victims, including providing culturally sensitive services that take into account the unique social and cultural dynamics of the island community, ensuring that every victim, regardless of background, has access to the care they deserve; and

WHEREAS, volunteerism remains central to VARO's mission, with trained volunteer advocates continuing to serve as a cornerstone of its work; the organization conducts training for individuals interested in becoming advocates and relies on partnerships, grants, fundraising, community support, and its dedicated volunteers, approximately thirty (30) active volunteers as of August 2026, to maintain its ability to offer life-saving support free of charge; and

WHEREAS, VARO is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and an Executive Director, and has become a cornerstone of victim support on Guam, offering more than just crisis intervention, it provides hope, safety, and a path toward healing, with a vision of creating a community where every victim has the opportunity to rebuild and thrive; and

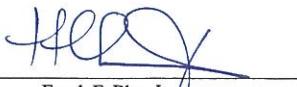
WHEREAS, in October 2026, VARO celebrates its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary, recognizing more than four decades of service and the many volunteers, advocates, board members, staff, community partners, donors, and supporters who have sustained its mission; and

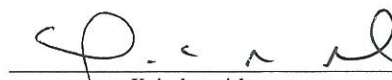
WHEREAS, on Saturday, October 10, 2026, VARO will host its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala, "Bloom in Hope," its signature fundraising event bringing together community members, partners, and supporters to help sustain the organization's programs and services for victims and survivors throughout Guam; and now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the people of Guam, recognize Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commend its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam; 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 Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); 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 OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 11TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.


Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker


V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules


Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



Alana Ungach
9/15/26, 9:05am
Alana Ungach
Edu

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

Resolution No. 214-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

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

Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; and the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commending its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam.

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

WHEREAS, Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) is a Guam-based nonprofit organization whose history dates back to 1982, when Beverly Paulk and U.S.

1 Navy psychiatrist Gene Tinelli recognized the need for an organized community
2 response for victims of sexual assault and abuse; the organization was originally
3 established as Counseling Advocates Reaching Out (CARO), bringing together civilian
4 and military volunteers and coordinating with hospitals, law enforcement, and the court
5 system; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the first CARO volunteer group consisted of twenty-five (25)
7 trained individuals who provided support and a safe space for victims; as the
8 organization's role grew, its services expanded beyond its original mission, and in 1989
9 CARO became Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO), reflecting its broader
10 commitment to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse,
11 human trafficking, and other forms of violence and trauma that affect individuals and
12 families on Guam; and

13 **WHEREAS**, VARO was established in response to the growing need for victim
14 advocacy services on the island, recognizing that victims of crime often face significant
15 emotional, psychological, and financial challenges in the aftermath of their experiences;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, VARO has provided a comprehensive range of
18 services aimed at supporting victims through every stage of their recovery, including
19 crisis intervention, advocacy, a 24-hour crisis hotline, emergency shelter and housing
20 support, crisis counseling and therapeutic services, safety planning, legal advocacy, and
21 support during court proceedings, ensuring that no victim is left without the help and
22 resources they need; and

23 **WHEREAS**, VARO has played a critical role in bridging the gap between
24 victims and essential community services by collaborating with local law enforcement,
25 legal professionals, healthcare providers, government agencies, and other organizations
26 to create a network of care that addresses the immediate and long-term needs of victims;
27 and

1 **WHEREAS**, through ongoing outreach, education, and advocacy efforts, VARO
2 has raised public awareness of the challenges faced by victims, actively engaging the
3 community in conversations about violence, victimization, and the steps that can be
4 taken to reduce and prevent these crimes; and

5 **WHEREAS**, VARO has been instrumental in empowering victims to regain
6 control over their lives by offering programs that focus on healing and recovery, helping
7 them navigate the legal system, secure restraining orders, and find safe and stable
8 housing, while also advocating for stronger protections and policies to safeguard their
9 rights; and

10 **WHEREAS**, over the years, VARO has expanded its services to meet the
11 evolving needs of Guam's victims, including providing culturally sensitive services that
12 take into account the unique social and cultural dynamics of the island community,
13 ensuring that every victim, regardless of background, has access to the care they
14 deserve; and

15 **WHEREAS**, volunteerism remains central to VARO's mission, with trained
16 volunteer advocates continuing to serve as a cornerstone of its work; the organization
17 conducts training for individuals interested in becoming advocates and relies on
18 partnerships, grants, fundraising, community support, and its dedicated volunteers,
19 approximately thirty (30) active volunteers as of August 2026, to maintain its ability to
20 offer life-saving support free of charge; and

21 **WHEREAS**, VARO is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and an
22 Executive Director, and has become a cornerstone of victim support on Guam, offering
23 more than just crisis intervention, it provides hope, safety, and a path toward healing,
24 with a vision of creating a community where every victim has the opportunity to rebuild
25 and thrive; and

26 **WHEREAS**, in October 2026, VARO celebrates its Forty-Fourth (44th)
27 Anniversary, recognizing more than four decades of service and the many volunteers,

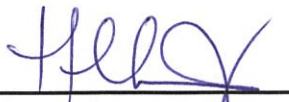
1 advocates, board members, staff, community partners, donors, and supporters who have
2 sustained its mission; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on Saturday, October 10, 2026, VARO will host its Fifth (5th)
4 Annual Purple Gala, “Bloom in Hope,” its signature fundraising event bringing together
5 community members, partners, and supporters to help sustain the organization’s
6 programs and services for victims and survivors throughout Guam; and now therefore,
7 be it

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na*
9 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people
10 of Guam, recognize Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its
11 Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala;
12 and further commend its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners
13 for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support
14 for victims and survivors throughout Guam; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
16 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
17 the same be thereafter transmitted to Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and to
18 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 11TH DAY
OF SEPTEMBER 2026.**



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker



V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary



COMMITTEE ON RULES

VICE SPEAKER V. ANTHONY ADA, CHAIRPERSON

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan

38th Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE VOTE SHEET

Resolution No. 214-38 (COR) – Telo T. Taitague, Sabrina Salas Matanane, Joe S. San Agustin, Christopher M. Dueñas, Frank F. Blas, Jr., William A. Parkinson, Jesse A. Lujan, Shelly V. Calvo, Therese M. Terlaje, Tina Rose Muña-Barnes, Chris Barnett, Sabina Flores Perez, Vincent A. V. Borja, V. Anthony Ada, Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao – “Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; and the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commending its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam.”

	INITIAL	DATE	TO ADOPT	TO NOT ADOPT	TO ABSTAIN
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada Chairperson	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas Vice Chairperson	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr. Member	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Legislative Secretary Sabrina Salas Matanane Member	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja Member					
Senator Shelly V. Calvo Member					
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao Member	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Senator Jesse A. Lujan Member	EVOTE 9/11/2026		✓		
Senator Telo T. Taitague Member	 9/11/2026		✓		
Senator Tina Rose Muña-Barnes Minority Member					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin Minority Member					
For Sponsor's Office Use Only Sponsor Signature:					
Staff Contact Person: Isah					
For COR/Clerk's Office Use Only 7 Certified _____ Returned _____ Name: Tehyani Crisostomo					
Date: September 11, 2026 at 11:43 a.m.					
Notes:					



OFFICE OF SENATOR
Telo T. Taitague
CHAIRWOMAN

Committee on Economic Investment, Military Buildup, Regional Relations, Regulatory
Affairs, Technology, Justice, Elections, and Retirement

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 38th Guam Legislature

Ste. 407 DNA Building
2238 Archbishop Flores St.
Hagatna, Guam 96910
(671) 989-8356
senatortelot@gmail.com

September 11, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media
From: Senator Telo T. Taitague, Chairperson
Subject: **Presentation of Resolution No. 214-38 (COR)**

Håfa Adai!

Please join me in presenting a **Resolution No. 214-38 (COR)**, “Relative to recognizing Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO) on the occasion of its Forty-Fourth (44th) Anniversary; and the celebration of its Fifth (5th) Annual Purple Gala; and further commending its staff, volunteers, board of directors, and community partners for their continued commitment to advocacy, crisis intervention, education, and support for victims and survivors throughout Guam.”

The presentation is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 2:00 pm in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building.**

We look forward to your attendance and participation.

Respectfully

Senator Telo T. Taitague