

Resolution No. 58 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

T. R. Muña Barnes
Toni Sanford
R. J. Respicio

F. B. Aguon, Jr. R. Klitzkie
J. M.S. Brown L. A. Leon Guerrero
F. R. Cunliffe J. A. Lujan
C. Fernandez v. c. pangelinan
Mark Forbes J. M. Quinata
L. F. Kasperbauer Ray Tenorio



Relative to expressing the sorrow of the people of Guam upon the passing of an Educator, Linguist, Historian, Writer, and dear friend of Guam, the late Professor Donald M. Topping, for his extraordinary contributions to our island and our people, and to acknowledging his great body of work, including many published books on the Chamorro language, that will be his legacy for countless generations.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, the late Professor Donald M. Topping, retired from the University of Hawaii as an expert in Linguistics and a Researcher in the languages of Micronesia, especially *Chamorro*, passed away on Sunday, June 29, 2003, at the age of seventy-three (73); and

WHEREAS, born in a suburb of Huntington, West Virginia, the late Professor Topping spent most of his life in the Pacific, from 1956 through 1958 as Assistant Professor of English for the Territorial College of Guam, and thirty-five (35) years at the University of Hawaii where he served as Director for the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute and the Social Science Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, the native language of ethnic *Chamorros* on the Micronesian island of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, particularly *Saipan*, *Tinian*, and *Rota*, is *Chamorro*; yet *Chamorros* represent less than half of the current population on Guam, and many young *Chamorros* do not speak the language, with estimates of the *Chamorro* speaking population hovering between sixty and ninety thousand (60,000-90,000); and

WHEREAS, Professor Topping extensively researched general literature on language loss, language attrition, language shift, and factors in language acquisition, and as an educator, played a special role in helping to raise awareness of the *Chamorro* language and also assisted the people of Guam in preserving the *Chamorro* language; and

WHEREAS, as part of his dedication to preservation of the *Chamorro* language, the late Professor Topping received a University of Hawaii Office Research Administration grant, so that Researcher and native *Chamorro* speaker, the late Mr. Pedro Ogo, could continue to stay in Honolulu through the spring of 1968 to continue work on the *Chamorro-English Dictionary*; and

WHEREAS, the advent of the computer simplified the late Professor Topping's effort to produce a *Chamorro* dictionary making it the largest database of *Chamorro* words which he compiled with the able assistance of the late Mr. Pedro Ogo and Dr. Bernadita Camacho-Dungca, who were primary informants on the project as native speakers; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping's work with the production of the *Chamorro-English Dictionary* encouraged the people of Guam to take upon themselves the task of expanding his publication to eventually become a true *Chamorro* dictionary in which there is no reference to another language; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Camacho-Dungca returned to the University of Hawaii in the fall of 1971, thereafter working with the late Professor Topping to edit, expand and correct the necessary changes of the *Chamorro* dictionary until 1973, when they were able to produce the final results; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping has published over ninety (90) articles on the Pacific Island languages and cultures and is the primary author and editor of the *Chamorro-English Dictionary*, *Chamorro Reference Grammar* and *Spoken Chamorro*, and has published selective writings such as *Lessons in Chamorro*; *A Restatement of Chamorro Phonology*; *Language Policy*; *Planning in the Micronesia and Guam*; *Chamorro Vowel Harmony*; *Spoken Chamorro Tomorrow?*; *The Decline of Pacific Languages*; *Language and Social Change in the Pacific Islands*; *Linguistics Imperialism in the Pacific*; *Changing Language Profiles in the Pacific*; *The Role of Language in Decolonizing the Pacific*; and *The Future of the Chamorro and Carolinian Languages*; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping retired from the University of Hawaii in 1993, having been diagnosed in 1989 as having cancer, and in his retirement years became an advocate for medicinal marijuana, co-founding the Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii in 1993, serving as its president for ten (10) years, and advocating the legalization of medicinal marijuana in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping founded the Forum to encourage the development of effective drug policies that minimize economic, social, and human costs, and to promote the consideration of pragmatic approaches to drug policy based on scientific principles, effective outcomes, public health considerations, concern for human dignity and enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities, and published dozens of articles on various aspects of drug use, abuse and the Drug War; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping's efforts through the Drug Policy Forum persuaded former Governor Cayetano to back a bill to legalize medicinal marijuana in Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping was the Chairman and Member of the Board of Directors for PEACESAT, a satellite communication system, using a satellite to communicate to the Pacific Region which extends from as far north as Santa Cruz, California, to Australia and as far east as Japan and as far west to American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, the late Professor Topping's passing leaves behind grieving family members including his wife, Mrs. Priscilla Topping; sons Miles and Lee Minh Topping, and Jason Kesolei; daughters Dee Johnson and Leslie Jensen; eight (8) grandchildren and four (4) great-grandchildren; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express the sorrow of the people of Guam upon the passing of an Educator, Linguist, Historian, Writer, and dear friend of Guam, the late Professor Donald M. Topping, for his extraordinary contributions to our island and our people through his extensive research and documentation of the *Chamorro* language; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mrs. Priscilla Topping; to the Richard F. Taitano Micronesian Area Research Center; to the Department of *Chamorro* Affairs; to the family of the late Mr. Pedro M. Ogo; to Dr. Bernadita Camacho-Dungca; to the Department of Education *Chamorro* Studies and Special Projects; to the University of Hawaii; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE SIETE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 7TH DAY OF JULY, 2003.

vicente (ben) c. pangelinan
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Senator and Legislative Secretary

