

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Sara Dimla
DMHSA Prevention & Training Branch
Tel. No.: 671-477-9079 thru 9083
Email Address: sara.dimla@mail.dmhsa.guam.gov
Website: www.peaceguam.org

790 Gov. Carlos G. Camacho Rd.
Tamuning, Guam 96913

Phone: 671.647.5330
Fax: 671.649.6948

EDWARD BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

WILFRED G. AFLAGUE
Director

**Resolution 195-31 Recognizes Local Suicide
Intervention and Prevention Efforts**

Hagåtña, Guam; September 21, 2011 – Relative to recognizing and commending the Prevention and Training Branch staff of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and other PEACE Council stakeholders, for raising awareness of suicide prevention, and for providing intervention training on Guam; and does further extend *Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse to them as they work with national partners and continue in their diligent efforts to reduce the suicide rate on Guam, as we observe September as the annual "Suicide Awareness Intervention and Prevention Month."*

On September 21st, Vice Speaker BJ Cruz, Speaker Judith Won Pat and Legislative Secretary Tina Muna-Barnes, on behalf of the members of the 31st Guam Legislature, introduced Resolution 195-31 acknowledging the accomplishments of the Prevention and Training Branch staff of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. With the Governor's Council on Prevention Education and Community Empowerment (PEACE) and members of the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW), Guam's prevention advocates worked collaboratively to initiate strategies and steps for using local data to build the island's capacity and training in suicide prevention and early intervention. Members of the Governor's PEACE Council represent private and public sector partners:

- Sanctuary, Inc.
- InafaMaolek, Inc.
- Youth for Youth LIVE, Guam
- Guam National Guard
- Department of Public Health and Social Services
- University of Guam
- Guam Police Department
- Health Partners, LLC
- Guam Alternative Lifestyles Association (GALA)
- Guam Identified Families with Terrific Strengths (GIFTS)
- Guam SDA Wellness Center
- Guam Chamber of Commerce
- Sorensen Media Group
- Southern Christian Academy
- Department of Youth Affairs
- Department of Education
- Guam Head Start Program
- Mayors' Council of Guam
- Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services
- Guam Memorial Hospital Authority
- US District Court of Guam – US Probation Office
- Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Archdiocese of Agaña, Division of Pastoral Ministries

The resolution was introduced as part of the month of September as National Suicide Early Intervention and Prevention Month events.

For more information on local suicide intervention and prevention trainings and programs, visit www.peaceguam.org or contact the DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE office) at 671-477-9079 thru 9083.



Pictured: Vice Speaker Cruz announces Resolution 195-31. Among those present were Bobbie S.N. Benavente, DMHSA Prevention and Training branch supervisor, Youth for Youth Live! Guam members Jerick Cruz (Vice-President) and Sean Rupley (former President) and Clarissa Wilson and Consuelo Rabara from Sanctuary, Inc.

ATTACHMENT: Copy of Resolution 195-31

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