



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN
BOARD OF REGENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 14-12

**RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF MASTERS
OF MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
TO MR. CANDIDO BABAUTA TAMAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is authorized to confer degrees; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman was born in Saipan on January 9, 1948; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman was raised in a traditional Saipanese family with ancestors from Sumay (Guam) and Tamatam (Chuuk); and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman's musical gifts were evident early in life and his elders taught him the ancient *kantan chamorrta* as well as numerous traditional *Refaluwasch* (Carolinian) songs; and,

WHEREAS, in the 1970s, Candido Babauta Taman combined those indigenous melodies that he had been taught with contemporary rock and roll, disco, country western and cha cha music which created a truly local blend that helped define a new sound for the Marianas; and,

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman, in the late 1970s, became something of a cultural broker during the contentious transition from Trust Territory to United States Commonwealth. Beginning with the naming of his band, "Chamolinian," Taman promoted a syncretic Chamorro-Carolinian identify in which all Northern Mariana Islanders took pride; and,

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman helped to define the sound of Chamorro music popular on Guam since the early 1980s through albums with his bands (Tropicsette and Chamolinian), 24 solo albums, and numerous songs written for other artists; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman, with his fluency in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chuukese and Palauan languages, and his working knowledge of Pohnpeian and Kosraen languages, has been a driving force in the development of popular indigenous language music throughout Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman's ability to write songs with Pan-Micronesian popularity points demonstrates not just language ability, but an understanding of commonalities within a very culturally diverse region with a long history of tensions between islands; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman helped found the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) chapter of PIBBA (Pacific Islands Bilingual Bicultural Association) in 1995 and served as interim president, represented the CNMI in 2004 in the Belau Festival of Pacific Arts, and has been active in PREL (Pacific Resources for Education and Learning) where he has promoted *kantan chamorrta* and the Chamorro language; and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman has been recognized in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands as a cultural authority, has been appointed to boards of the CNMI

Council for Arts and Crafts and the Chamorro/Carolinian Language Commission, and has been honored in several resolutions by the CNMI House of Representatives for his contributions to CNMI and Micronesian cultural heritage; and


WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman has tirelessly worked to promote Chamorro culture through dozens of voluntary performances at public schools on Guam during *Mes Chamorro* and serving as a judge in UOG's annual Chamorro language competitions, and

WHEREAS, Candido Babauta Taman is a living archive of traditional Micronesian knowledge and has used his talents to make this knowledge part of contemporary culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents through the Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations, and Honorary Degree Committee hereby deems it appropriate to confer the Honorary Degree of Masters of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge to Candido Babauta Taman; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents, along with the President of the University of Guam, will confer said Honorary Degree at the Spring 2014 Commencement on May 25, 2014.

Adopted this 17th day of April, 2014.



W. Chris Perez, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Executive Secretary