



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN
Board of Regents

Resolution No. 20-25

**RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF MASTER OF MICRONESIAN
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO ROSALIA FEJERAN MATEO TORRES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents (BOR) is authorized to confer degrees;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres, affectionately known as “Mama Chai,” has been serving the Guam community and Pacific region as a *Yo’åmte* (Master, Traditional Healer) for over sixty-four (64) years. She is one of a few remaining indigenous experts in the field of traditional healing with specialization in massage and traditional medicinal herbal remedies for various ailments, such as skin problems, respiratory issues, infertility, pain, congestion, and women’s health;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres is known as *Saina* (elder) to many and is a World War II survivor who has long been respected for risking her life to save her sister and another young woman being held captive by the Japanese Imperial Army;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres, in continuing the legacy of traditional healing, started her apprenticeship at the age of 19 with *Yo’åmte* Regina Terlaje. Rosalia visited and helped *Tan* Regina gather and prepare herbs to treat other clients who sought *Tan* Regina for healing. *Tan* Regina eventually declared “*Esta págo, sina hao man åmte*,” that Rosalia was ready to serve others. This successful completion of the apprenticeship is itself indicative of earning the equivalent of a degree in traditional healing to practice;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres, joined Haya Foundation in 2014 to help promote and perpetuate healing traditions and to help those desiring to learn. With her guidance, Haya Foundation opened *Guma Yo’Åmte*, Guam’s first Traditional Healing Center on May 22, 2016, at Sagan Kotturan Chamorro in Tamuning;

WHEREAS, with Rosalia F.M. Torres’ leadership, *Guma Yo’Åmte* served about an average of 101 clients per month in the first seven months of the operation. This number significantly increased to an average of 490 clients per month in 2018. Rosalia has personally served a conservative estimate of thousands of clients and was instrumental to the opening of two additional centers in Agat and Yona. As a result of her work, men and women who have suffered a stroke with limited mobility have been helped to speak more clearly and walk without assistance. People who were scheduled for amputations were spared this procedure after her treatments. Women with fertility problems were able to give birth. People contemplating suicide appreciated her guidance and counsel to see the value of life. Others have shared how they have suffered for years until they came to see her. She has saved lives and each time she attributes the work as that of the Ultimate Healer;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres has been active in developing the Apprenticeship Program in 2019 along with the Guam *Para Hinem’lo* Center for Apprenticeship and Traditional Healing Workshops. She has been teaching and guiding apprentices to learn traditional healing, and she is currently guiding two apprentices;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres, with the opening of the 12th Pacific Festival of Arts on Guam, served on the organizing committee for Traditional Healing Discipline, served as a Guam Delegate and helped to host over 13 countries. She was also involved with the meetings of the Pacific Healers and the establishment of the Pacific Indigenous Healers Consortium;

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres co-presented at many conferences, workshops, and community outreach activities in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the traditional healing system. As a *Saina*, her wisdom, leadership, and guidance are the primary reasons for the progress made in perpetuating and revitalizing the indigenous healing tradition and offered lessons to re-connect to the land and ocean to heal people;

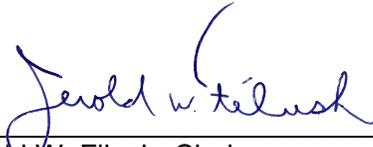
WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres has displayed a life-time of selfless service as an indigenous expert in the field of healing, made significant contributions to a population with whom many may not have access to services, and has served many of the most vulnerable population and improved the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Rosalia F.M. Torres' recommendation package has been reviewed by the Deans' Council, Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Faculty Excellence, the UOG President, and the Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations, and Honorary Degree Committee and recommends approval of the Master of Micronesia Traditional Knowledge honorary degree in *Yo'ámte* (Master, Traditional Healer) to the BOR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOR hereby approves to confer the Honorary Degree of Master of Micronesia Traditional Knowledge honorary degree in *Yo'ámte* (Master, Traditional Healer) upon Rosalia F.M. Torres; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOR, along with the President of UOG, will confer said Honorary Degree at the Fanuchánan 2020 commencement.

Adopted this 15th day of October, 2020.



Jerold W. Filush, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Thomas W. Krise, Ph.D., Executive Secretary