



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN
BOARD OF REGENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 16-20

RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF LAWS TO
HER EXCELLENCY HILDA C. HEINE, PH.D.

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

WHEREAS, Her Excellency (H.E.) Hilda C. Heine was born in 1951 on Juluit Atoll (Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)), where she resided until she moved to Majuro to attend the Marshall Islands High School; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine is the daughter of Reverend Bourne and Kathy Heine, and is married to Thomas Kijiner Jr., with whom she has three children and five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine received a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (Social Science) from the University of Oregon (1974), a Master in Education (Curriculum and Instructions) from University of Hawaii (1975), and a Ph.D. in Education (Educational Leadership) from University of Southern California (2004); and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine is a Marshallese educator, serving at the Marshall Islands High School (Majuro, RMI) as a classroom teacher from 1976 to 1980 and as a School Counselor from 1980 to 1982; at the College of Marshall Islands (Majuro, RMI) as an Administrator from 1982 to 1991 and as President from 1991 to 1993; and at the Ministry of Education (Majuro, RMI) as Secretary of Education from 1993-1995; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, where she served as Program Director for the Pacific Comprehensive Assistance Center (PCAC), Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) from 1995 to 2000, as Scholar for FAS Education for PREL from 2000-2004, as Director of Policy and Capacity Building for PREL from 2004-2006, and as Program Director for the PCAC, PREL in Honolulu Hawaii and RMI/PREL Service Center in Majuro, RMI; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine was elected to Aur Atoll senatorial seat for the RMI *Nitijela* (Parliament) for a four (4) year term from 2011 to 2015 and was re-elected for a second term beginning in 2015; was appointed and served as Minister of Education from January 10, 2012 for a four (4) year term; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine was elected as President of the FMI on January 27, 2016 for a four (4) year term, which she is currently serving; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine is active in the community and has served in many organizations to include: a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Secretary for the Commission on Education in Micronesia,

Vice Chairperson for the College of the Marshall Islands Board of Regents, Chairperson for the Teacher Standards and Licensing Board, Minister of Education, RMI, Chairperson for the Human Resources in Health Task Force , Ministry of Health, RMI, Advisor for Women United Together Marshall Islands, and Member of the TVET Steering Committee, RMI National Training Council; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine has many publications in the area of education, several of which specifically focus on issues related to the RMI, Micronesia and the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine was the first Marshallese woman to obtain a doctorate degree, was one of the first three women to gain a seat on *Nitijela*, and is the first woman president of an independent Pacific island nation; and

WHEREAS, H.E. Hilda C. Heine has established herself as a leader among women, educators, Marshallese, and Pacific Islanders and continues to utilize her knowledge and abilities to benefit the RMI, Micronesia and the Western Pacific region.

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 Doctor of Laws upon H.E. Hilda C. Heine, Ph.D.; 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 2016 Commencement on May 22, 2016.

Adopted this 21st day of April, 2016.



Antoinette Sanford, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Executive Secretary