



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÅHAN
Board of Regents**

Resolution No. 22-02

**RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS TO DR. JOHN RAY TAITANO**

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

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano was the first CHamoru to graduate as a doctor of medicine from the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in 1977 and the first CHamoru physician to graduate from the U.S. Army War College in 2001, after graduating from John F. Kennedy High School in 1965 and the University of Guam (UOG) in 1968;

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant at the U.S. Army Engineer's Officer Candidate School, Fort Belvoir, VA, in 1969 and, then served in Vietnam from 1971-1972. In 1983, Dr. Taitano commissioned as a Captain in the Guam Army National Guard and became its first State Surgeon. While serving as the Senior Medical Officer of the Guam Guard, Colonel Taitano attended the U.S. Army War College where he graduated in June 2001 with a Master of Strategic Studies. In 2005, Colonel Taitano served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, fighting and attending to medical needs as a Medical Corp Officer with the 199th Troop Medical Clinic of the 256 Brigade Combat Team of the Louisiana Army National Guard;

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano, in 1985, with three fellow doctors, Vincent A. Duenas, Debra G. Ericson, and W. Chris Perez, established the Family Medical Clinic, which eventually became The Doctors' Clinic, and continues to serve the people of Guam practicing internal medicine for over 41 years since medical school and as the current owner of the organization;

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano served in many significant positions and organizations to include, but not limited to, being President of the Guam Memorial Hospital Medical Staff, Chairman of the Hospital's Medical Executive Committee, President of the Guam Medical Society, President of the Government of Guam's Commission on Licensure, President of the Guam Heart Association, President of the Guam Veterans' Advisory Council, President of the Cancer Council of the Pacific Islands, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the Guam Memorial Hospital, and Chairman of the Guam Board of Medical Examiners, improving our community's quality of life;

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano's strength and commitment to lead and succeed and being an ambassador of Guam has earned him recognition in many areas to include, but not limited to, making the list of Top Ten Award in his graduating class at John F. Kennedy High School in 1965 and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities in 1967; being elected President of the Student Body Association at UOG in 1967, and the President of the International Friendship Club in 1968; being voted UOG-Best All Around Student, Most Likely to Succeed in 1968; earning the Merit Scholarship to UOG in 1965 and the Government of Guam Professional Technical Award to the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa in 1972; being selected as UOG's Distinguished Alumnus in 1982, 2003, and 2011; being inducted into the Hall of Fame at the U.S. Army Engineer Officer Candidate School in 2001; and achieving the rank of Colonel (grade 06) in the U.S. Army;

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano's commitment to family, CHamoru culture, and values of service and care has been instilled within his family through the support of his wife, Sera Babauta Chargualaf Taitano, who shared these ideals during their 44+ years of marriage and four children who are now giving back to the community in their respective professions and military service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. John Ray Taitano's recommendation package has been reviewed by the Honorary Degree Committee; Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Faculty Excellence and Faculty Senate; Deans' Council; Senior Vice President & Provost; UOG President; and the Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations, and Honorary Degree Committee, and recommend approval of the Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* (DHL) to the BOR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the BOR hereby approves to confer the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* (DHL), upon Dr. John Ray Taitano; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BOR, along with the President of UOG, will confer said Honorary Degree at the Fañomnåkan 2022 commencement.

Adopted this 24th day of February, 2022.



Liza J. Provado, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



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