



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN
BOARD OF REGENTS

RESOLUTION NO. 16-21

RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING *BILUNG* GLORIA G. SALII AS A MASTER
OF MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

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

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents seeks to recognize traditional indigenous knowledge of the people of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii was born in Palau on January 5, 1950, married Carlos H. Salii, JD (Dec), and has two children, James Lebuu Raakuk Littler and Uroi Ngerdokou Salii; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii completed high school at the Palau Mission Academy in Koror, Palau, and attended Southern Union Adventist College (Keene, Texas) from 1970 to 1975; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii was summoned to return home at the age of twenty-two (22) to attend the funeral of her maternal uncle (*okdemelel*) High Chief *Ibedul* Ngoriakl of Idid Clan of Koror. She assumed the title *Acting Ibedul* so the Koror Traditional Leader seat in the Palau Legislature would not be vacant, pending the appointment and confirmation of a new High Chief *Ibedul*. She held this position until her brother, Yutaka Gibbons, returned in 1973 to assume the title; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii became *Bilung* of Idid Clan of Koror, Head Matriarch of *Bitalianged* (10 of the 16 states of Palau) of Palau after the passing of her grandmother, *Bilung* Ngerdoko, in 1975; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii heads the *Kerngab*, the council of female title holders in Koror and the *Ngarachamayong*, which is an organization of elder women living in Koror; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii has held the title of *Bilung* until present, for over forty years, and has performed the *eldecheduch* solo, a first for Palau, where she singlehandedly conducted her customary obligations and earned a coveted Palauan money in the process; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii has spearheaded and championed many local, national and several international causes ranging from women's rights and powers, cultural heritage and preservation, environmental conservation, health, education, and many more; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii founded *Mechesil Belau* and its annual Women's Conference in 1994, is the founder and manager of *Ngarachamayong* Cultural Center, one of the strong symbols of cultural preservation initiatives which has been

developed in Palau, and is founder and sponsor to the Prince Lee Boo Scholarship at the Palau Community College; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii has served as the Palau Institutional Review Board Chairperson (2010-present); Palau Community College Governing Board/Board of Trustees Founding Member (1993), Vice Chairperson (1993-2000), and Chairperson (2000-2013); One-time Chairperson for the College of Micronesia System Board of Regents, Member of the Association of Community College Trustees, and Member of the Palau National Development Bank; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii is the recipient of Gusi Peace Prize for International Women's Rights Advocacy (2003) and was recognized by the Palau Humanities Project as one of Palau's fascinating women (2014), recognizing her efforts in traditional culture, environmental preservation, community outreach services, education, and women's rights and powers; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii is noted for her competence as an expert in Palauan traditions, cultures and practices; *Ng Ourrot*, a matriarch in all senses, bringing in valuable and giving out the same valuable, establishing her undisputed role as matriarch and teacher; traditional women's leadership and development; traditional community organization, facilitation, mobilization and policy development; leader of Palauan cultural practices preservation, facilitation and adaptation; facilitation/improvement and adaptation of family, lineage and clan development for improvement of human development and communities; development of traditional knowledge and skills; and Mentor and teacher for traditional dances for girls, young women, and women's dance, and traditional chants, for contemporary and traditional men and women's dances during the Festival of Pacific Arts held in Palau, for women and men in Seventh Day Adventist Group in Palau, for taro fields restoration and development of new taro patches, for searching, planting and use of common traditional herbal medicines, planted fiber trees for traditional grass skirt materials and planted trees to be used for thatch roof for traditional *Bai* and the making of thatched roofs; and

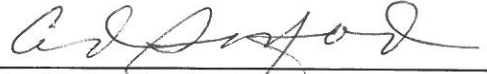
WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii served as a consultant on the publication "Public Health Impacts of Climate Change in Palau" by the Southern Illinois University, authored the book *Celebrate & Showcase Mechesil Belau Conference Accomplishments in 20 years – 1993-2013*; Koror, Palau, was Director of 22 films featuring the Annual *Mechesil Belau* Conference, and was featured in a National Geographic film production and in a locally produced film on climate change, and was featured on the U.S. Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) coverage during the Festival of Pacific Arts; and

WHEREAS, *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii has and continues to make major positive impacts in Palau, the Micronesian region, and elsewhere through her dedication to protection of our region's unique cultures, environment and people; and

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 upon *Bilung* Gloria G. Salii the designation of Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge; and

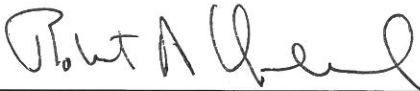
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents, along with the President of the University of Guam, will confer said designation at the Spring (*Fannomnakan*) 2016 Commencement on May 22, 2016.

Adopted this 21st day of April 2016.



Antoinette D. Sanford, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Executive Secretary