



ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.

Proclamation No. 2008-011

PROCLAIMING 2008 AS

“Guam Year of the Reef”

WHEREAS, for thousands of years, Pacific islanders have relied on coral reef ecosystems, which provide food, protection from storms, economic activity and recreation.

Guam’s reefs are a vital element of our culture and our way of life. The reefs and the many creatures that rely on these special ecosystems are a source of food and recreation, as well as a major attraction for the tourists that support our economy, and protection from storm surges and typhoons.

Despite the value of our reefs, these unique areas are under constant threat from pollution, poor land use practices, recreational misuse and overuse, and unsustainable harvest of fish and other resources.

Fishermen, divers, surfers and researchers all recognize the significant threats to our coral reefs and the cultural and economic practices that depend on them. Our community must come together to understand the challenges facing our coral reefs and take immediate action to preserve these resources for our children and their children.

In 1997, the first International Year of the Reef was organized with great success, engaging more than 200 partners from more than 50 countries and territories to promote coral reef awareness and take steps to help preserve these resources around the globe.

The 2008 International Year of the Reef seeks to build on the success of the first effort and strengthen awareness about the immense social, ecological and cultural value of coral reef ecosystems, and to generate urgent action at all levels to protect coral reef resources.

On Guam, we must take urgent and immediate action to prevent the loss of most of the island’s coral reef ecosystems within our children’s lifetimes. Innovative partnerships involving all members of the community as well as national and international partners will be needed to help us conserve and sustain our precious resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FELIX P. CAMACHO, *I Maga’ Lâhen Guâhan*, Governor of the Island of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby proclaim **2008** as **“Guam Year of the Reef,”** with the theme, **“Our Reefs, Our Future.”** In so doing, I urge our community to acknowledge the importance of preserving the coral reef that surrounds Guam and to take action to protect our reefs for the future.

FURTHERMORE, on behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate the Guam Coral Reef Initiative and the Guam Environmental Education Committee for their participation and coordination in developing specific proposals, including six local action strategies, and hosting events to strengthen coral reef management.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby set my hand and cause the Great Seal of the Guam to be affixed in the Capital City of *Hagåtña* on this **First** day of **February**, in the year of Our Lord, *Anno Domini*, **Two Thousand Eight**.

A large, stylized cursive signature of Felix P. Camacho.

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga’ Lâhen Guâhan
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

A cursive signature of Michael W. Cruz, M.D.

MICHAEL W. CRUZ, M.D.
I Segundo Na Maga’ Lâhen Guâhan
Lieutenant Governor of Guam

