



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN
BOARD OF REGENTS**

RESOLUTION NO. 10-17

***RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF MASTERS OF
MICRONESIAN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE TO MANNY IKEA SIKAU, NAVIGATOR***

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

WHEREAS, a major part of the University's regional commitment is to support the perpetuation and advancement of the unique indigenous cultures of Micronesia; and,

WHEREAS, it is important that the University recognizes the indigenous cultural expertise and knowledge that has been passed along inter-generationally in island communities throughout Micronesia; and,

WHEREAS, the University seeks to highlight the importance and centrality of this knowledge to future generations by drawing attention to individuals who are acknowledged experts in an important facet of traditional culture; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was born on February 12, 1958 in Polowat, the fourth child of Orhailam Sikau and Ineruk (Maria) Soulik, and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau graduated from Truk High School in 1979 and was already a recognized leader by serving as president of the senior class; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau has participated in Proa voyages since his birth; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau began formal training in navigation in 1962, learning the stars from his grandfather and Master Navigator Ikuliman; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau began his formal training in canoe building in 1966, learning from his father, Master Canoe Builder Orhailam Sikau ; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau came to Guam for the first time in 1972 on a proa voyage from Polowat as a sailor and apprentice navigator aboard the *Santiago*, with his grandfather, Captain and Navigator Ikuliman; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was ordained a Master Navigator in a *pwo* performed in Polowat by renown Master Navigator Hipour in 1997; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was a co-founder of the University of Guam Traditional Seafaring Society in 1999, and served as Master Navigator and instructor from 1999 to 2007; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau is a member of the group TASI (Traditions About Seafaring Islands) and serves as their Master Navigator, teaching traditional navigation, canoe building, and canoe-house building to its members and other interested community members; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was named the Guam Traditional Teacher of the Year in 2001 by the Guam Humanities Council; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was the Master builder in the construction of the canoe house *Sahyan Tasi Fache Mwan* at the Paseo de Susana, Guam in 2001 and for its reconstruction in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was the Master navigator for a non-instrument navigation and instructional voyage from Guam to Saipan to Pagan and return aboard the cutter-rigged sloops *Fair Rover* (42 ft.) and the *Vatna* (33 ft.) in 2002; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau was the Master carver of the 15-ft vessel *Geftao*, a traditional Chamorro Proa in 2006 and of the voyaging canoe, *Saina* in 2008, the first traditional Chamorro *sakman* built in over 200 years; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau has been recognized and honored for his skills as a Master Canoe Builder, a Master Canoe House Builder and a Master Navigator; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau, a seventh generation master navigator, has shared his knowledge and understanding of traditional navigation, which has been in existence in oral Micronesian history for thousands of years; and,

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau is dedicated to the preservation of traditional seafaring knowledge and unselfishly continues his role as teacher to this day to impart his knowledge to fellow islanders; and

WHEREAS, Manny Ikea Sikau has given numerous lectures and interviews, has been featured in local, national and international articles and media productions, and is himself a published scholar regarding traditional navigation and seafaring; and,


WHEREAS, Guam, the Marianas, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Western Pacific region and its people have benefited in numerous ways from the knowledge and skills of Manny Ikea Sikau.

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 Master of Micronesian Traditional Knowledge upon Manny Ikea Sikau, Master Navigator; 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 2010 Commencement on May 30, 2009.

Adopted this 20th day of May, 2010.

ATTESTED:



Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Executive Secretary



P. Sonny Ada, Chairperson