## MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN TWENTY-EIGHTH GUAM LEGISLATURE 2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Bill No. <u>224</u>(45)

Introduced by:

A. B. Palacios, Sr.

AN ACT TO AMEND §6114 OF CHAPTER 6, TITLE 3 OF THE GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO THE DISQUALIFICATION OF ANY ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL UPON CONVICTION OF A FELONY OR A MISDEMEANOR INVOLVING CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT OR A CRIME OF MORAL TURPITUDE.

## BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative findings and intent. I Liheslaturan Guåhan

2 amended §6114 of Chapter 6, Title 3 of the Guam Code Annotated,

3 establishing qualifying requirements for all elected public offices in Guam

4 through the passage of Public Law 26-171. I Liheslaturan Guåhan also finds

5 that §4203.2 of Chapter 4, Title 4, Guam Code Annotated, prohibits any

6 person from running or holding an elective public office on Guam who has

7 been convicted of any family violence felony as described in Title 9, Guam

8 Code Annotated.

*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that these requirements are fairly standard in other states and jurisdictions of the United States.

*I Liheslaturan Guåhan* also finds that Guam does not have specific statutes providing for the removal or disqualification of incumbent elected public officials who are convicted of a crime while in office, after having been qualified to run for such public office pursuant to §6114(a).

Therefore, it is the intent of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* to amend §6114(a) to provide for the disqualification of incumbent elected public official after conviction of a crime of felony, or a crime of misdemeanor involving criminal sexual conduct, or a crime of moral turpitude.

**Section 2.** §6114 of Chapter 6, Title 3 of the Guam Code Annotated, is hereby amended to read:

"§6114. (a) Convicted Felons and Others shall not be Candidates. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all candidates for any elected public office, board or commission in Guam must *not* have been convicted of a felony, and must *not* have been convicted of a misdemeanor involving criminal sexual conduct or crime of moral turpitude.

At the time of filing for candidacy with the Commission, all candidates shall submit: (1) clearance from the Guam Police Department; *and* (2) signed affidavit attesting that the candidate has *not* been convicted for a felony or misdemeanor, as described herein this Section, in any State or Territory of the United States or foreign country.

The Commission shall disclose via a Public Notice in a newspaper published on Guam, a list of candidates with any pending felony or misdemeanor, as described herein this Section, and such offense(s) the candidate is charged with.

- (b) Conviction of Elected Public Official. Any elected public official who is convicted of a crime of felony or a misdemeanor involving criminal sexual conduct, or a crime of moral turpitude while in public office, shall be immediately suspended from continuing to hold said public office. Such elected official shall be temporarily removed from office pending judicial appeal, or pending result of the process of recall.
- (c) Mandatory Administrative Leave during Initial Appeal. An elected public official convicted of a crime under §6114 of Chapter 6, Title 3, Guam Code Annotated, may have the right to appeal such conviction. However, such convicted public official shall be barred from exercising the powers and authority of said position, and said public official shall be placed on administrative leave with pay during the pendency of the appeal, unless sooner removed through the process of recall. Failure to obtain reversal of conviction with this initial appeal shall effectuate the effective removal from office, and such office shall be declared "vacant". Such vacant office shall then be filled according to law.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of
this Section, a recall process may be initiated pursuant to law, separate
and apart or concurrent with said subsections (b) and (c)."