MINA BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN 2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

Bill No. (EC) 875

Introduced by:

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R. J. Respicio

AN ACT TO CREATE A COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY MISSION IN GUAM

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

2 Section 1. Statement of Legislative Findings and Purpose. I Mina Bente 3 Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan finds that the people of Guam are supportive of the 4 U.S. military mission in Guam and are proud of Guam's contribution to the 5 nation's defense, and the U.S. military presence contributes significantly to the 6 island's economy and must be factored into any successful strategy for economic 7 growth for our island. I Liheslatura also recognizes that serious concerns continue 8 to exist regarding political status, ancestral lands, and the Chamorro right to self-9 determination, each of which affect civilian-military relations in Guam. 10 I Liheslatura has determined that it is in the public's interest to assess and 11 coordinate Guam's economic, promotional, and infrastructure policies on an

coordinate Guam's economic, promotional, and infrastructure policies on an ongoing basis, with the goal of encouraging and fostering the deployment of more military units to Guam, while simultaneously developing strategies to reach greater mutual understanding on issues directly affecting the Chamorro people and federal-local relations.

The community's interest in military expansion is broadly recognized and pursued by not only government agencies such as the Guam Economic Development and Commerce Authority, but also by private entities such as the Guam Chamber of Commerce. Increases in military activity will serve the

interests of our people well with respect to expansion of our economy and creation of new private sector jobs. It will also raise the awareness among federal and military officials of those issues relating to land and status that directly affect the Chamorro people.

I Liheslatura further finds that this objective can more effectively be realized by adopting a Team Guam approach to the local promotion and support of the military mission in Guam, as well as to issues regarding federal-local relations. I Mina Bente Siete Na Liheslaturan Guahan therefore finds that a commission should be established to help coordinate and support all aspects of government policy and private sector efforts in support of achieving the best results for all concerned.

Section 2. Creation of the Commission on Community Support of the Military Mission in Guam. A new Chapter 23 is added to Title 1 of the Guam Code Annotated to read:

15 "Chapter 23

Section 2301. Creation of the Commission on Community Support of the Military Mission in Guam. There is established a Commission on Community Support of the Military Mission in Guam for the people of Guam which shall be composed of twelve (12) members including the Chairperson. The Governor shall serve as Chairperson of the Commission. Three (3) members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor, of which one (1) shall be a member of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and one (1) shall be a member of a Chamorro rights organization who has been selected by the combined memberships of the various organizations. Three (3) members shall represent the

1 Legislature, of which one (1) shall be a member of and be selected by, the 2 Legislature's minority; one (1) member shall be the Chairperson of the standing 3 committee with specific jurisdiction over Federal Affairs; and one (1) member 4 shall be appointed by the Speaker, who may appoint himself. One (1) member 5 shall be appointed by the Mayors Council from among the membership of the 6 Mayors Council. One (1) member to represent the youth of Guam shall be 7 appointed from among the qualified members of the Guam Youth Congress by 8 the Speaker of the Youth Congress, who may appoint himself. The Administrator 9 of the Guam Economic Development and Commerce Authority and the General 10 Manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau shall also be members of the Commission. 11 Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress shall be an ex-officio member. 12 The Commission shall choose a vice-chairperson from among the members of the 13 Commission. No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the commission 14 unless he or she shall be a citizen of the United States qualified to vote in Guam. 15 Members shall serve so long as they retain the positions they occupy or are 16 members of the groups they represent when appointed. The term of any non-17 elected member appointed by the Governor shall expire with the term of the 18 appointing authority. Vacancies in membership shall be filled in the same 19 manner as the original appointment. 20 Section 2302. Goals and Purposes of the Commission. The Commission 21 on Community Support of the Military Mission in Guam shall have three 22 purposes:

The formation of a "Team Guam" approach, involving all elements of the public and private sector, for the preservation and expansion of the military mission on Guam. The

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Commission shall facilitate the coordination of public sector and private sector initiatives and policies in this regard including, but not limited to, policies related to Guam's public image, infrastructure, public services, and land use.

The development of new initiatives to support the current military mission on Guam and to foster its expansion."