I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2006 (SECOND) Regular Session

Executive Committee Resolution No. 179

Introduced by:

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Ray Tenorio
A. R. Unpingco
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
J. M.S. Brown
Edward J.B. Calvo
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J. T. Won Pat

Relative to recognizing the week of May 20 through 28, 2006 as "National Safe Boating Week" and commending members of the Guam Safe Boating 2006 Planning Committee for their continued efforts in raising awareness of the importance of recreational boaters wearing life jackets.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I

- 2 MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:
- 3 WHEREAS, as an island community, Guam is blessed with
- 4 opportunities to engage in recreational boating and other water activities that
- 5 are both enjoyable and inherently risky; and
- 6 WHEREAS, recreational boaters and their passengers can greatly
- 7 increase their chance of surviving serious accidents by wearing a personal

1 floatation device (PFD) while boating; and

WHEREAS, operator mistakes cause the vast majority of boating accidents rather than those due to the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 24 Guam, is committed to improving boating safety, and during "National Safe Boating Week" from May 20 through 28, 2006, will present many activities and exhibits designed to enhance public awareness of boating safety, improve vessel safety, and promote the exchange of information with federal and local officials who oversee boating safety; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard Marianas Section Command Center coordinated three hundred eighty (380) Search and Rescue cases, of which thirty-six (36) were medical evacuations; five (5) were capsized vessels; eight (8) were flare sightings; seventeen (17) were overdue vessels; and ten (10) were diver incidents; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard's published "Boating Statistics 2002," proves the exemplary efforts of the agency, demonstrating that boating fatalities have declined in the United States every year since 1997; eighty-five percent (85%) of those who drowned in serious boating accidents in 2002 were not wearing life jackets on board, thus resulting in the tragic deaths of five hundred twenty-four (524) boaters, including twenty-eight (28) children; more than fifty-six percent (56%) of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling over board, flooding, or unpredictable in-water experiences; and

WHEREAS, the National Safe Boating Council observes that, "although

- 1 boating fatalities and injuries have declined over more than two (2) decades, the
- 2 numbers remain high"; and
- WHEREAS, knowledge and skills are needed to reduce human error
- 4 and improve judgment if our people are aware of the risk, they are likely to
- 5 take precautionary measures to protect themselves and their family and
- 6 friends; and
- WHEREAS, the national theme for this year's observance is "Boat
- 8 Smart-Boat Safe-WEAR IT!" exemplifying the lifesaving value of wearing
- 9 personal floatation devices (PFD's); and
- 10 WHEREAS, concerns about improving safety in ocean-related
- 11 endeavors has resulted in co-ordination between various organizations,
- 12 whose interests are closely aligned with those of the U.S. Coast Guard
- 13 Auxiliary, Flotilla 24 Guam, including the Guam Fishermen's Co-op, the
- 14 Guam Jet Sport Racing Association, the Marianas Paddle Sports Racing
- 15 Association, the Marianas Yacht Club, the Sumay Yacht Club, the Guam
- 16 Sailing Federation, the 4-H Kayak Club and the Sea Cadet Corps; and
- 17 WHEREAS, this year, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 24, Guam
- 18 and the U.S. Coast Guard, along with the Guam Police Department Territorial
- 19 Boating Safety Office SEAS & Harbor Patrol Unit the Guam Fire Department –
- 20 Fire Rescue the Port Authority of Guam, the Department of Parks and
- 21 Recreation, the Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and
- 22 Plans, the HSC-25 Helicopter Squadron, the Personal Watercraft Dealers
- 23 Association, and the National Weather Service are all working as the 2006
- 24 "National Safe Boating Week" Planning Committee, taking part in a
- 25 nationwide campaign to promote boating safety; now, therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of I Mina'Bente Ocho Na

2 Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of I Liheslaturan Guåhan and the

3 people of Guam, commend and congratulate the 2006 "Safe Boating Week"

4 Planning Committee and recognizes the week of May 20 through 28, 2006 in

5 observance of "National Safe Boating Week" together with this year's

6 national theme: "Boat Smart, Boat Safe, WEAR IT!"; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive

8 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption

9 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Mr. James

10 Chargualaf, Chairperson of the 2006 "Safe Boating Week" Planning

11 Committee; to Mr. Arthur Delisle (Duke), Vice Flotilla Commander of the U.

12 S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; to Captain William Marhoffer, Commander of the

13 U. S. Coast Guard Marianas Section; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I

14 Maga'lahen Guåhan.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 22ND DAY OF MAY 2006.

MARK FORBES

Speaker and

Chairman, Executive Committee

EDWARD J.B. CALVO

Senator and

Secretary of the Legislature