

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

**Executive Committee
Resolution No. 190**

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorio
L. F. Kasperbauer
Edward J.B. Calvo
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
J. M.S. Brown
B. J.F. Cruz
Mike Cruz
Mark Forbes
R. Klitzkie
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A. B. Palacios, Sr.
R. J. Respicio
A. R. Unpingco
J. T. Won Pat

Relative to recognizing October 2006 as 'Family Violence Awareness Month' and commending the practitioners and advocates who help raise awareness and support victims of family violence and recognizing their significant contributions to reduce family violence crimes.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I**
2 ***MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:***

3 **WHEREAS,** family violence is physical, sexual, emotional or verbal
4 violence directed against a person who is the abuser's intimate partner or
5 relative; and

6 **WHEREAS,** family violence affects people regardless of age, sexual

1 orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, culture, education,
2 religion or economic status; and

3 **WHEREAS**, children in homes where abuse occurs among adults are
4 neglected at a rate of fifteen hundred percent (1,500%) higher than the
5 national average; and

6 **WHEREAS**, studies show that children from violent homes have higher
7 risks of alcohol, drug abuse or juvenile delinquency; are six (6) times more
8 likely to commit suicide; twenty-four (24) times more likely to commit sexual
9 assault crimes; and fifty (50) times more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol; and

10 **WHEREAS**, children from abusive homes carry terrible experiences of
11 violence with them into adulthood and to the next generation; and

12 **WHEREAS**, there were more than one thousand six hundred thirty-six
13 (1,636) cases of abuse and neglect referred to the Child Protective Services at
14 the Department of Public Health and Social Services in 2005, of which eighty-
15 four (84) cases were directly related to family violence; and

16 **WHEREAS**, five hundred eighty-seven (587) family violence cases were
17 reported to the Guam Police Department in 2005, and three hundred eighty-
18 seven (387) individuals were arrested for family violence; and

19 **WHEREAS**, family violence is often ignored and tolerated by our
20 society and many victims blame themselves and feel responsible for the
21 actions of their abuser, leaving them isolated and ashamed; and

22 **WHEREAS**, many men and women are reluctant to admit to any
23 occurrence of violence and many are reluctant to seek help beyond their
24 families, which leads experts to believe that the rate of family violence is

1 much higher than statistics indicate; and

2 **WHEREAS**, Adult Protective Services, a Division of the Department of
3 Public Health and Social Services this year received over fifty-six (56)
4 referrals, thirty-five (35) regarding abuse to our island’s elderly and twenty-
5 one (21) regarding our disabled community; and

6 **WHEREAS**, family violence contributes to other numerous problems,
7 including child neglect, alcoholism, homelessness, mental illness and
8 attempted suicide; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP
10 VAW sub-grantees, government agencies, community and faith-based
11 organizations have joined forces to confront this crisis, including the Alee
12 Shelter – Catholic Social Services; Anderson Family Support Services – Fleet &
13 Family Support Services; Archdiocese of Agana; Attorney General of Guam –
14 Department of Law, Crime Victim Response Unit; Department of Corrections
15 – Parole Division/Training; Guam Public School System; Department of
16 Mental Health & Substance Abuse – Healing Hearts Crisis Center (HHCC);
17 Department of Public Health & Social Services; Department of Youth Affairs;
18 Erica’s House – Visitation Center; Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal
19 Programs Office; Governor’s Legal Counsel; Guam Housing and Urban
20 Renewal Authority; Guam Judiciary; Guam Legislature; Guam Police
21 Department – Victim Assistance Unit; Guam Legal Services Corporation
22 (GLSC); *Guma’Mami*, Inc.; *Inafa’Maolek*; Mayor’s Council of Guam; the media;
23 Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD); Public Defender Service
24 Corporation; Superior Court of Guam – Client Services and Family

1 Counseling Division; Judicial Council; Superior Court of Guam – Probation
2 and Marshals Divisions; Sanctuary Inc.; University of Guam; and Victim
3 Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and

4 **WHEREAS**, to improve the efficiency and delivery of services to victims
5 of family violence and sexual assault, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault
6 Coalition was organized this year and is comprised of Erica's House, Guam
7 Legal Services Corporation (GLSC), Victim's Advocate Reaching Out (VARO),
8 and the Healing Heart's Crisis Center (HHCC); and

9 **WHEREAS**, we must fulfill our commitment to family violence victims
10 and survivors by treating them with compassion and respect, protecting their
11 right to be free from violence, and fostering a safe environment in which to
12 live peacefully; now, therefore, be it

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na*
14 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
15 people of Guam, recognize October 2006 as “Family Violence Awareness
16 Month”; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na*
18 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the
19 people of Guam, commend the practitioners and advocates who help raise
20 awareness and support victims of family violence and recognizes the
21 significant contributions these individuals and organizations have made, and
22 continue to make, to reduce family violence crimes on Guam; and be it further

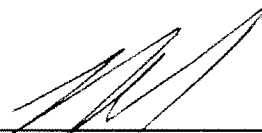
23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive
24 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption

1 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members
2 of the 'Family Violence Awareness Month' Task Force; to the Non-profit
3 Community Service Providers; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, I
4 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan.*

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 5TH
DAY OF OCTOBER 2006.**



MARK FORBES
Speaker and
Chairman, Executive Committee



EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and
Secretary of the Legislature