

**I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN**  
**2005 (FIRST) Regular Session**

**Executive Committee**  
**Resolution No. 81**

Introduced by:

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

Relative to recognizing the month of October 2005 as "Family Violence Awareness Month" and to commend practitioners and advocates who help raise awareness and support victims of family violence and to recognize the significant contributions these individuals and organizations have made, and continue to make, to reduce the crime of family violence.

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

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

1 relative; and

2       **WHEREAS**, family violence affects people regardless of age, sexual  
3 orientation, physical ability, marital status, ethnicity, culture, education,  
4 religion, or economic status; and

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

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

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

14       **WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2004, there were more than one thousand  
15 three hundred thirty-six (1,336) cases of abuse and neglect referred to the  
16 Child Protective Services at the Department of Public Health and Social  
17 Services, of which more than one hundred twenty-six (126) cases were directly  
18 related to family violence; and

19       **WHEREAS**, four hundred ninety-five (495) family violence cases were  
20 reported to the Guam Police Department in Fiscal Year 2005, and more than  
21 two hundred forty-two (242) individuals were arrested for family violence;  
22 and

23       **WHEREAS**, Guam Police Department statistics also show family  
24 violence-related offenses included more than seven (7) cases of aggravated  
25 assault, involving the use of weapons and resulting in injury; over forty-five

1 (45) assault cases; one hundred sixty-one (161) reported disturbances; over  
2 thirty-five (35) reported harassment and miscellaneous cases; and over two  
3 hundred twenty-six (226) cases classified as family violence; and

4 **WHEREAS**, family violence is often ignored and tolerated by our  
5 society, and many victims feel isolated, ashamed, and even responsible for the  
6 abuse, often blaming themselves; and

7 **WHEREAS**, many men and women are reluctant to admit to the  
8 incidence of violence and are reluctant to seek help beyond their families, and  
9 that experts believe that actual prevalence of family violence is much higher  
10 than statistics indicate; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in Fiscal Year 2005, Adult Protective Services, a Division of  
12 the Department of Public Health and Social Services, has received over one  
13 hundred fifty-seven (157) referrals recently, most of which were the result of  
14 abuse to our island's elderly and disabled; and

15 **WHEREAS**, family violence is a major contributing factor to numerous  
16 other problems, including child neglect, alcoholism, homelessness, mental  
17 illness, and attempted suicide; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP  
19 VAW subgrantees, government and non-government organizations, faith-  
20 based organizations, and other community partners have joined forces to  
21 directly confront this crisis, including: Alee Shelter – Catholic Social Services;  
22 Anderson Family Support Services – Fleet & Family Support Services;  
23 Archdiocese of Agana; Attorney General of Guam – Department of Law,  
24 Crime Victim Response Unit; Department of Corrections – Parole  
25 Division/Training; Department of Education; Department of Mental Health &

1 Substance Abuse – Healing Hearts Crisis Center (HHCC); Department of  
2 Public Health & Social Services; Department of Youth Affairs; Erica’s House –  
3 Visitation Center; Governor’s Community Outreach – Federal Programs  
4 Office; Governor’s Legal Counsel; Guam Housing and Urban Renewal  
5 Authority; Guam Judiciary; Guam Legislature; Guam Police Department –  
6 Victim Assistance Unit; *Guma’Mami*, Inc.; *Inafa’Maolek*; Mayor’s Council;  
7 Media; Mother’s Against Drunk Driving (MADD); Public Defender Service  
8 Corporation; Superior Court of Guam – Client Services and Family  
9 Counseling Division; Judicial Council; Superior Court of Guam – Probation  
10 and Marshals Divisions; Sanctuary Inc.; University of Guam; and the Victim  
11 Advocates Reaching Out (VARO); and

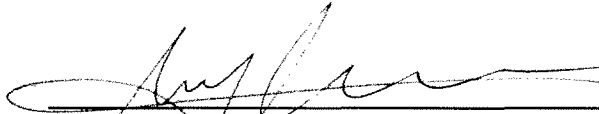
12         **WHEREAS**, the effort, compassion, and dedication of these volunteers,  
13 professionals, and organizations should be recognized and applauded; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15         **RESOLVED**, that the Executive Committee of *I Mina’Bente Ocho Na*  
16 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the  
17 people of Guam, recognize the month of October 2005 as “Family Violence  
18 Awareness Month”, and does commend the practitioners and advocates who  
19 help raise awareness and support victims of family violence, as well as the  
20 significant contributions these individuals and organizations have made, and  
21 continue to make, to reduce the crime of family violence; and be it further

22         **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairman of the Executive  
23 Committee certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption  
24 hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members

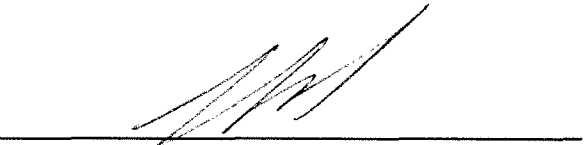
- 1 of the "Family Violence Awareness Month" Task Force; and to the Honorable
- 2 Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup>  
DAY OF OCTOBER, 2005.**



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**MARK FORBES**  
Speaker and  
Chairman, Executive Committee



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