




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 

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, children in homes where abuse among adults occur, are often neglected at a rate of fifteen hundred percent

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(1,500%) higher than the national average in the general population;
and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, men and women who are reluctant to admit to any occurrence of violence, many are reluctant to seek help beyond their families, in which experts believe that the rate of family violence is much higher than statistics indicate; and

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

WHEREAS, family violence is a major contributing factor which often leads to other numerous problems, including child neglect, alcoholism, homelessness, mental illness and attempted suicide; and

WHEREAS, the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Task Force, STOP VAW sub-grantees, government agencies, community and faith-based organizations, have joined forces to directly confront this crisis including entities such as the Alee Shelter – Catholic Social Services; Anderson Family Support Services – Fleet & Family Support Services; Archdiocese of Agana; Attorney General of Guam – Department of Law, Crime Victim Response Unit; Department of Corrections – Parole Division/Training; Department of Education; Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse – Healing Hearts Crisis Center (HHCC); Department of Public Health & Social

Services; Department of Youth Affairs; Erica's House – Visitation Center; Governor's Community Outreach – Federal Programs Office; Governor's Legal Counsel; Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority; Guam Judiciary; Guam Legislature; Guam Police Department – Victim Assistance Unit; Guam Legal Services Corporation (GLSC); *Guma'Mami, Inc.*; *Inafa'Maolek*; Mayor's Council of Guam; the Media; Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD); Public Defender Service Corporation; Superior Court of Guam – Client Services and Family Counseling Division; Judicial Council; Superior Court of Guam – Probation and Marshals Divisions; Sanctuary Inc.; University of Guam; and Victim Advocates Reaching Out (VARO);

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

WHEREAS, we must fulfill our commitment to family violence victims and survivors by treating them with compassion and respect, protecting their rights to be free from violence, and fostering a safe environment to live life peacefully; now, therefore be it

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

Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the month of October 2006 as "Family Violence Awareness Month"; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Secretary of the Legislature attests to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the members of the 'Family Violence Awareness Month' Task Force; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

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

MARK FORBES
Speaker

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