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

Executive Committee Resolution No. 132(45)

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorie L.F. Kasperbayer M. Cruz

Relative to commending Special Olympics Guam for providing Olympic-style sports for individuals with special needs and to extend *un Dångkolo' na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to participants and volunteers of the community, government, and corporate entities who continue to support and provide services and care throughout the years.

BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN:

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1968 Chicago Park District and the Kennedy Foundation endorsed the first International Special Olympics Games held in Chicago's Soldier Field hosting 1,000 athletes with special needs from 26 states and Canada competing in track and field, floor hockey and aquatics; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Guam, a non-profit organization was established in 1976 and in 1977 held their first Special Olympics games at John F. Kennedy High School with 150 athletes participating in various sports; and

WHEREAS, the mission of Special Olympics Guam is to provide year round sports training and competition on a variety of Olympic-type sports for

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individuals with special needs, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympic athletes and the community; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Guam athletes participated in the Hawaiian state games in 1978, in the 5th International Summer Special Olympics held at the State University of New York in 1977, and in 1980 Guam became the first "foreign" team to participate in the Hong Kong state games; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Guam continues to participate in off island Olympics including the 8th International Summer Special Olympics Games held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, one of the largest special sporting events in the world consisting of 6,000 athletes from more than 100 countries; and

WHEREAS, the island community, government, and corporate organizations have supported Special Olympics Guam for many years by providing more games and opportunities to improve services and treatment and establishing a more just community; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the First Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run was created for the island community to foster closer relations and familiarity with the heroism of our athletes, who continue to face many challenges, but with their high spirits are able to prevail and continue to improve their way of life; now therefore, be it

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RESOLVED that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, commend Special Olympics Guam, athletes, and volunteers for providing Olympic style sports throughout the years, and be it further

RESOLVED that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* further extends *un Dångkolo' na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to the participants and volunteers of the community, government and corporate entities for their continued support and encourages the island community to take part in such a rewarding event to celebrate the lives of those who have special needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Special Olympics Guam; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE _____TH DAY OF MARCH, 2006.

MARK FORBES Speaker Executive Committee Chairman EDWARD J.B. CALVO Senator Secretary of the Legislature

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