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

Resolution No. 46 (L5)

Introduced by:

Ray Tenorio

L.F. Kasperbauer

J.M.S. Brown

Relative to recognizing April 2005 as "Sexual Assault Month" and to honor crime victims and to extend a un Dångkolo' na Si Yu'os Ma'åse' to employees and volunteers of community-based, and government organizations, and volunteers who provide service and care for sexual assault victims and sexual assault survivors throughout the year.

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

WHEREAS, the people of Guam acknowledge the suffering, struggles, and loss that sexual assault victims and sexual assault survivors endure and that these victims are family members and friends, neighbors, and co-workers who have been harmed by this intolerable violent crime through no fault of their own with serious public health implications; and

WHEREAS, no one person, organization, agency or community can eliminate sexual assault, our island community must steadfastly work towards an extensive education campaign on preventing sexual assault; support sexual assault victims and sexual assault survivors and their significant others; and

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1 increase support for agencies providing services to victims and sexual assault 2 survivors; and

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WHEREAS, we also value many of the important programs and services that help victims of sexual assault and sexual assault survivors regain selfdignity, obtain safe housing, food, transportation, counseling, medical services and support for their children; and

WHEREAS, the Healing Hearts Crisis Center has been instrumental in addressing sexual assault by providing a 24-hour hotline service for victims and sexual assault survivors and their significant others; responding to emergency calls; offering comfort and support to sexual assault victims during medical examinations, criminal proceedings, and empowering the victims to chart their own course for healing; and

WHEREAS, the Healing Hearts Crisis Center encourages active public and private collaborative effort to end sexual assault on Guam by Speaking Out Against Sexual Violence through dialogue on prevention; crucial counseling and support services for survivors; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of community and government-based organizations advocate for and support victims of sexual assault to improve victims' rights; providing prevention education and survivor empowerment information to schools, churches, civic organizations, as well as medical, mental health, law enforcement, education and criminal justice personnel services; and WHEREAS, the people of Guam recognize sexual assault victims' and

23 sexual assault survivors' needs and rights and their right to be free from

- 1 violence, to be safe in their own homes, to live in peace, pursue liberty and 2 justice; and
- WHEREAS, our island community joins the nation in recognizing the month of April 2005 as "Sexual Assault Month"; now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED that I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, honor crime victims and those organizations and individuals who serve them throughout the year during "Sexual Assault Month," and that as individuals, communities, and as an island, we continue to value sexual assault victims and sexual assault survivors,
- 10 and to value justice in our nations that includes and involves sexual assault
- 11 victims and sexual assault survivors; and be it further
- RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify and the Legislative Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Healing Hearts; to Attorney General Douglas B. Moylan; 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 11th DAY OF APRIL 2005.

MARK FORBES
Speaker
Executive Committee Chairman

EDWARD J.B. CALVO Senator Secretary of the Legislature

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