




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

**Resolution No. 75(LS)**

Introduced by:

**R. Tenorio**   
**L. F. Kasperbauer**   
**J.M.S. Brown** 

**Relative to recognizing the week of May 21st-28th, 2005 as 'Safe Boating Week' and commending members of the Guam Safe Boating 2005 Planning Committee for their continued efforts in raising awareness of the importance of recreational boaters wearing life jackets.**

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

**WHEREAS,** as an island community, we are blessed with opportunities to engage in recreational boating and other water activities that are both enjoyable and have inherent risks; and

**WHEREAS,** recreational boaters and their passengers can greatly increase their chance of surviving serious accidents by wearing a personal floatation device (PFD) while boating; and

**WHEREAS,** operator-controllable factors are the cause of the vast majority of boating accidents over the comparatively low percentage of accidents due to the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 24 Guam, is committed to improving boating safety, and, during the week-long observance of 'Safe Boating Week' from May 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2005, has

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planned many activities and exhibits designed to enhance public awareness of boating safety, improve vessel safety through free inspections, and present opportunities for the exchange of information with federal and local officials that have oversight of boating safety; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard Section Guam Command Center coordinated 233 Search and Rescue cases, of which one hundred thirty-two (132) answered were stress alarms; two (2) vessels were found adrift, un-manned; three (3) were run aground; one (1) aircraft emergency; thirty-three (33) capsized, disabled, or disoriented vessels; five (5) diving accidents; three (3) flare signals; two (2) mayday broadcasts; twenty (20) medically evacuated off-island; seven (7) calls for overdue vessels; twenty-three (23) persons in water rescues; two (2) vessels taking on water; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Coast Guard's published "Boating Statistics 2002," provides laudable facts attributed to the exemplary efforts of the agency, including that boating fatalities have declined in the United States every year since 1997; eighty-five percent (85%) of those who drowned in serious boating accidents in 2002 were not wearing life jackets on board resulted in the tragic deaths of five hundred twenty-four (524) boaters and passengers, including twenty-eight (28) children; more than fifty-six percent (56%) of boating fatalities result from capsizing, falling over board, flooding, or unpredictable in-water experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Safe Boating Council observes that, *"although boating fatalities and injuries have declined over more than two (2)*

*decades, the numbers remain high”; and*

**WHEREAS**, knowledge and skills are important to reduce human error and improve judgment – if our people are aware of the risk, they are likely to take precautionary measures to protect themselves and their family and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, the national theme for this year’s observance is “Boat Smart-Boat Safe-WEAR IT!” exemplifying the continuing effort of instilling the lifesaving value of wearing personal floatation devices (PFD’s); and

**WHEREAS**, a unified concern to improving activities and greater prospects for successful outcomes in ocean-related endeavors has resulted in the formation between various organizations, listed below, whose interests are closely aligned with those of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 24 Guam, including the Guam Fishermen’s Co-op, the Guam Jet Sport Racing Association, the Marianas Paddlesports Racing Association, the Marianas Yacht Club, the Sumay Yacht Club, the Guam Sailing Federation, the 4-H Kayak Club and the Sea Cadet Corps ; and

**WHEREAS**, this year the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 24 Guam and the U.S. Coast Guard, along with the support of the Guam Police Department Territorial Boating Safety Office SEAS & Harbor Patrol Unit; the Guam Fire Department – Fire Rescue; the Port Authority of Guam, the Department of Parks and Recreation; the Guam Coastal Management Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans; the HC-5 Helicopter Squadron; the Personal Watercraft Dealers Association; and the National Weather Service are all working as the 2005 ‘Safe Boating

Week' Planning Committee, taking part in a nationwide campaign to promote boating safety; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, commends and congratulates the 2005 'Safe Boating Week' Planning Committee and recognizes the week of May 21st-28th, 2005 in observance of 'Safe Boating Week' together with this year's national theme: "Boat Smart, Boat Safe, WEAR IT!"; 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 Mr. James Chargualaf, Chairman of the 2005 'Safe Boating Week' Planning Committee; to Mrs. Mary Torres, Flotilla Commander of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; to Captain Dale Rausch, Commander of the U. S. Coast Guard Sector Guam; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF MAY 2005.**

**MARK FORBES**

**Speaker and**

**Chairman, Executive Committee**

**EDWARD J.B. CALVO**

**Senator and**

**Secretary of the Legislature**