

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

Resolution No. 83 (LS)

Introduced by:

J. A. Lujan
MARK FOLDES
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RELATIVE TO CONDEMNING THE PUBLICATION OF
DEROGATORY STATEMENTS ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND
ISLAND OF GUAM IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "BLOOD,
SWEAT AND COCKFIGHTING" IN ESPN.COM ON MAY 24,
AND DEMANDING A RETRACTION AND APOLOGY FROM
THE WALT DISNEY COMPANY

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

3 WHEREAS, an article about cockfighting on Guam was published on
4 May 24, 2005, by ESPN.com for general distribution on the World Wide Web;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the author, Michael Ogle, wrote from his personal
7 perspective with overt references to his moral concerns and viewpoint as a
8 family guest of a U.S. military member serving a tour of duty on Guam; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, the article portrayed an evening of cockfighting at the Santa
2 Rita fiesta which included derogatory and ridiculing characterizations of
3 Guam, life on Guam, residents of Guam, the duly established government of
4 Guam, and poor families on Guam; and

5 **WHEREAS**, objectionable and factually false comments about Guam’s
6 people and culture were not necessary to speak about the sport of
7 cockfighting as the author observed it to be practiced on Guam; and

8 **WHEREAS**, such characterizations are rhetorically designed to call up
9 and reinforce racial and cultural stereotypes of a bygone colonial era, and
10 inculcate a sense of national superiority; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the author heavily implied sharing the experience of U.S.
12 military base residents while expressing gross ignorance of and insensitivity
13 to Guam residents, with whom responsible representatives of the United
14 States armed services purport to cultivate favorable relations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the reputation of Guam and its people in the eyes of fellow
16 Americans directly affects Guam’s economy, through U.S. military base
17 construction decisions, and eventual political status discussions; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the reputed quality of our community and Guam’s
19 entertainment market is important to U.S. military personnel weighing
20 Guam’s suitability as an accompanied duty station, affecting in turn Guam’s
21 attractiveness for increased long-term military activity; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the “Blood, Sweat and Cockfighting” article posted on
23 ESPN.com is in worldwide distribution, archived in data form outside its

1 point of origination, and prospectively retrievable by anyone in an interest in
2 cockfighting or Guam; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the subject article, whether as a “news” or “entertainment”
4 feature article, is a commercial product of ESPN.com, which in the normal
5 course of production passes from the author to ESPN.com staff who are
6 responsible for reviewing, editing and forwarding articles for publication; and

7 **WHEREAS**, ESPN.com presumably paid freelance writer Michael Ogle
8 for his article; and

9 **WHEREAS**, ESPN.com is a profitmaking subsidiary of The Walt Disney
10 Company; and,

11 **WHEREAS**, in addition to ESPN and ESPN Radio networks, The Walt
12 Disney Company owns and operates other information and entertainment
13 media, such as the ABC television network with 226 affiliates, ten television
14 stations, 44 AM stations and 18 FM stations, Touchstone Pictures, Miramax
15 Films, NASCAR.com, NBA.com, Hyperion and Hyperion Books for Children,
16 all of which may use information on file about Guam’s people and culture as
17 published in the approved ESPN.com story about Guam, in preparing future
18 news stories that mention Guam or when drafting entertaining content; and

19 **WHEREAS**, similar disparaging and unsubstantiated remarks about
20 any American person or commercial entity placed in worldwide distribution
21 by a credible source as ESPN and The Walt Disney Company would not be
22 tolerated without determining the extent of damage suffered to one’s good
23 reputation and ability to conduct business, toward seeking compensation for
24 economic damages; now, therefore, be it

1 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* hereby demands an apology
2 from The Walt Disney Company for the disparaging and untrue
3 characterizations about Guam and the people of Guam made by its writer and
4 editors at ESPN.com; and now be it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* demands The Walt Disney
6 Company to cause a public retraction and repudiation of the disparaging and
7 untrue characterizations about Guam and the people of Guam made by its
8 writer and editors at ESPN.com, to appear on the World Wide Web of at least
9 the same prominence and distribution as the original article; and now be it
10 further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas impress
12 upon members of the United States armed services stationed on Guam of their
13 individual contribution towards a nationwide appreciation of Guam as an
14 American community; and be it further

15 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
16 Legislature attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
17 thereafter transmitted to Mr. Michael Eisner, Chief Executive Officer of The
18 Walt Disney Company; to Rear Admiral Arthur Johnson, USN, Commander,
19 U.S. Naval Forces Marianas; and to the Governor of Guam.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA*
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF 2005.**

MARK FORBES
Speaker

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