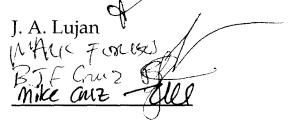
I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN 2005 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 83 (LS)

Introduced by:



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:
- 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

2005 JUNI -3 ^ MI II: 47

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 Guam, and poor families on Guam; and 4 5 WHEREAS, objectionable and factually false comments about Guam's people and culture were not necessary to speak about the sport of 6 cockfighting as the author observed it to be practiced on Guam; and 7 WHEREAS, such characterizations are rhetorically designed to call up 8 and reinforce racial and cultural stereotypes of a bygone colonial era, and 9 inculcate a sense of national superiority; and 10 WHEREAS, the author heavily implied sharing the experience of U.S. 11 12 military base residents while expressing gross ignorance of and insensitivity to Guam residents, with whom responsible representatives of the United 13 States armed services purport to cultivate favorable relations; and 14 WHEREAS, the reputation of Guam and its people in the eyes of fellow 15 16 Americans directly affects Guam's economy, through U.S. military base 17 construction decisions, and eventual political status discussions; and WHEREAS, the reputed quality of our community and Guam's 18 entertainment market is important to U.S. military personnel weighing 19 Guam's suitability as an accompanied duty station, affecting in turn Guam's 20 attractiveness for increased long-term military activity; and WHEREAS, the "Blood, Sweat and Cockfighting" article posted on ESPN.com is in worldwide distribution, archived in data form outside its

21

22

23

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

WHEREAS, the subject article, whether as a "news" or "entertainment" feature article, is a commercial product of ESPN.com, which in the normal course of production passes from the author to ESPN.com staff who are responsible for reviewing, editing and forwarding articles for publication; and WHEREAS, ESPN.com presumably paid freelance writer Michael Ogle for his article; and

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

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

WHEREAS, similar disparaging and unsubstantiated remarks about any American person or commercial entity placed in worldwide distribution by a credible source as ESPN and The Walt Disney Company would not be tolerated without determining the extent of damage suffered to one's good reputation and ability to conduct business, toward seeking compensation for 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	EDWARD J.B. CALVO

Senator and Secretary of the Legislature

Speaker