

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

Resolution No. 103 (LS)

As amended.

Introduced by:

B. J.F. Cruz
R. J. Respicio
L. A. Leon Guerrero
F. B. Aguon, Jr.
J. M.S. Brown
Edward J.B. Calvo
Mike Cruz
Mark Forbes
L. F. Kasperbauer
R. Klitzkie
J. A. Lujan
A. B. Palacios
Ray Tenorio
A. R. Unpingco
J. T. Won Pat

Relative to commending and congratulating human rights activist and writer Julian Aguon on the publication of his book, *Just Left of the Setting Sun*, a collection of critical essays exploring the contemporary struggle of the *Chamoru* people, and extending a *Dångkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to Mr. Aguon on behalf of the people of Guam for his ongoing efforts and his impassioned insights into the issues of colonization and culture that affect our island home.

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

1 **WHEREAS**, Julian Aguon, affectionately known as “Jules,” was born in
2 Guam twenty-three (23) years ago, the youngest of four (4) children of
3 Annabelle Lee Hemsing Cruz and the late Peter Perez Aguon; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Julian is a proud product of Guam’s public education
5 system, graduating from Simon Sanchez High School in 2000 and attending
6 Gonzaga University in Washington State where in 2004 he received his B.A. in
7 Sociology with a Philosophy minor, focusing on Interdisciplinary Social
8 Justice and Liberation Studies and Women Studies; and

9 **WHEREAS**, while a student, he was recognized as an Academic
10 Cultural Excellence Scholar, 2001-2004, training extensively in Intercultural
11 Competence and Diversity Education in a strategic three-year-long
12 curriculum; and was a Rogers Scholar, recognized for sustained commitment
13 to native communities of the Pacific Rim and North America, 2002-2003; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Julian had the singular honor to be the youngest
15 indigenous activist chosen to speak on behalf of native *Chamorros* on the
16 matter of self determination as a Petitioner, United Nations Fourth
17 Committee, on the Question of Guam, on October 6, 2005, addressing the
18 Committee alongside representatives from Gibraltar and Western Sahara in
19 the continuing UN debate on decolonization; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Julian is Spokesperson of the *Chamoru* Cultural
21 Development and Research Institute; and is the Citizen of Conscience, *I Nasion*
22 *Chamoru*, since 2004, and is one of the native activists leading the community
23 in a more than year long campaign against water privatization in Guam,
24 closely following the actions of the Chamber of Commerce, the Consolidated
25 Commission on Utilities, and Guam’s executive branch to violate

1 participatory democracy by attempting to rush the privatization of the Guam
2 Waterworks Authority despite popular objections, and is co-leader of a public
3 campaign to stop the privatization of Guam's only commercial port; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in his ongoing role as an activist for human rights Julian
5 has served as Guam Representative, 9th Annual Festival of Pacific Arts; The
6 Republic of *Belau*, July 2004 where he represented Guam in a symposium on
7 the legal protection of traditional knowledge and expressions of culture; was
8 invited to be on a panel in Hawaii on intellectual property rights, traditional
9 and customary law, and related concerns regarding the practice of the United
10 States in undermining sovereignty in the Pacific; as a guest lecturer,
11 University of Guam, College of Arts and Sciences, Fall 2004 - Fall 2005;
12 participates and holds membership in numerous other organizations
13 promoting the issues of human rights, decolonization, and participatory
14 democracy; and

15 **WHEREAS**, as a grantee of the National Endowment for the Humanities
16 and the Guam Humanities Council, Julian received support and funding to
17 produce *Just Left of the Setting Sun*, his collection of critical essays exploring
18 the contemporary struggle of the *Chamoru* people, the book intending to
19 expose Guam's long colonial history by reportedly shedding light on facts
20 about the progress or lack thereof toward decolonization for the *Chamorro*
21 people, bringing a fresh, contemporary voice to this subject; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *Just Left of the Setting Sun* explores internalized colonization,
23 which the author believes is deeply afflicting the native people of Guam, and
24 he challenges American militarization, global hegemony and imperialism, as
25 well as the privatization and militarization agendas of those he refers to as the

1 "local elite," including the current local administration, the Chamber of
2 Commerce and others, exposing what he calls the democratic deficiency in
3 local government, the shortcomings of Guam's main newspaper, and the
4 uneven presentation of issues directly threatening the survival of the *Chamorro*
5 people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Julian Aguon's youth belies his knowledge and wisdom,
7 and the publication of the *Just Left of the Setting Sun* essays is a milestone in
8 that it gives a voice to the thoughts and feelings of many of our island's
9 indigenous people, while serving as a call to action and a call to engage in real
10 conversation on important topics affecting everyone who lives in Guam; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
13 the people of Guam, commend and congratulate human rights activist and
14 writer Julian Aguon on the publication of his book, *Just Left of the Setting Sun*,
15 a collection of critical essays exploring the contemporary struggle of the
16 *Chamoru* people; and be it further

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of
18 the people of Guam, also extends a heartfelt *Dangkolo Na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'* to
19 Julian Aguon for his ongoing efforts and his impassioned insights into the
20 issues of colonization and culture that affect our island home; and be it further

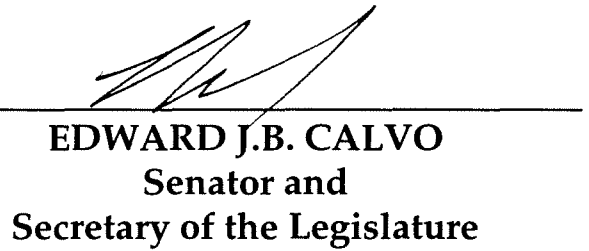
21 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify to, and the Secretary of the
22 Legislative attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
23 thereafter transmitted to Julian Aguon; to his mother Annabelle Lee Hemsing
24 Cruz; to the National Endowment for the Humanities; to the Guam

- 1 Humanities Council; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahen*
- 2 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 10TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2005.



MARK FORBES
Speaker



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