

**MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN**  
**2006 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 199 (LS)**

As amended.

Introduced by:

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

**Relative to requesting the Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass H.R. 4766, An Act to amend the Native American Languages Act to provide for the support of Native American Language survival schools, and for other purposes; and relative to requesting that the Honorable Members of the U.S. Senate pass H.R. 4766 in its entirety.**

- 1        **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**
- 2        **WHEREAS, *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* strongly supports**
- 3        **H.R. 4766, the “Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act**

1 of 2006”, which will be on the suspension calendar in the House of  
2 Representatives during the week of September 25<sup>th</sup>, and recognizes that this  
3 Bill will likely pass the House, thus, *I Mina’Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
4 urges the Senate to pass the House Bill by unanimous consent; and

5       **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* affirms that there is a crisis arising  
6 from the loss of Native languages across the country; that it is estimated that  
7 only twenty (20) indigenous languages will remain viable by the year 2050;  
8 that our Native languages are *not* spoken anywhere else in the world; and *if*  
9 they are not preserved, they will disappear forever; and that the rapid  
10 deterioration of Native languages makes saving them a race against the clock;  
11 and

12       **WHEREAS**, the key to stemming the loss of Native languages is to  
13 significantly increase support for Native American language immersion  
14 programs because said programs are one of the few effective ways to create  
15 fluent speakers of Native languages and Native students who participate in  
16 said programs attain higher academic success than their Native peers who *do*  
17 *not*; and

18       **WHEREAS**, *I Mina’Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* believes that the  
19 United States should do all it can to preserve Native American languages as  
20 these languages played a vital role in protecting our country during World  
21 Wars I and II and because federal assimilationist policies in the early and mid-  
22 1900’s caused many Native people to stop speaking their Native languages

1 because they were forced to attend Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools  
2 that forbade the speaking of Native languages *or* they were punished for  
3 speaking their own language on their own land, as was the case of the  
4 *Chamorro* people on Guam during the Naval Government regime; and

5       **WHEREAS**, the Administration for Native Americans, Health and  
6 Human Services administers a Native American languages revitalization  
7 grant program under the Native American Programs Act of 1974 and H.R.  
8 4766 would expand that program to include immersion grants that would  
9 revitalize and protect Native languages for generations to come; and

10       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 seeks to promote, consistent with United States  
11 policy as expressed in the Native American Languages Act (25 U.S.C. 2901, et  
12 seq.), the revitalization of Native American languages through education in  
13 said languages and instruction in other academic subjects using said  
14 languages as an instructional medium; and

15       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 seeks to demonstrate the positive effects of  
16 Native American language survival schools on Native American students'  
17 academic success and mastery of standard English and to encourage familial  
18 involvement in the educational and cultural survival efforts of said schools;  
19 and

20       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 encourages communication, cooperation, and  
21 exchange between Native American language survival schools and the  
22 administrators of Native American language survival schools, supports

1 Native American language survival school facilities and endowments, and  
2 supports Native American language nests, as part of Native American  
3 language survival schools or as separate programs that will be developed into  
4 more comprehensive Native American language survival schools; and

5       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 will develop local and national models that can  
6 be disseminated to public schools and other schools as exemplary methods of  
7 teaching Native American students and will develop Native American  
8 language survival schools at the university level; and

9       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 defines a 'Native American' to mean an Indian; a  
10 Native American Pacific Islander, a Native Hawaiian, and an Alaska Native,  
11 and, by virtue of having been defined as Pacific Islanders, the indigenous  
12 people of Guam, the *Chamorro* people, are Native Americans; moreover, the  
13 term 'Native American Pacific Islander' means any descendant of the  
14 aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory *or*  
15 possession of the United States; and

16       **WHEREAS**, H.R. 4766 defines 'Native American language' as a  
17 historical, traditional language spoken by Native Americans and *Chamorro*, as  
18 the traditional language spoken by the indigenous people of Guam, is a  
19 Native American language; and

20       **WHEREAS**, *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the  
21 uniqueness of the *Chamorro* language, its importance to preserving Chamorro  
22 culture and its importance as to setting apart and identifying the indigenous

1 people of the island and, more importantly, the importance of preserving the  
2 *Chamorro* language for the sake of Guam's people and generations to come;  
3 and

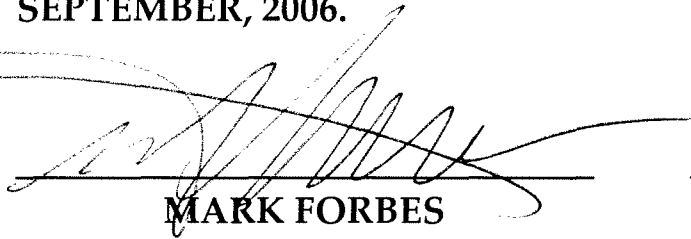
4 **WHEREAS**, the survival of the *Chamorro* language depends on its  
5 usage, teaching the *Chamorro* language to our children, and the support of  
6 educational institutions, facilities, consortias and programs where the  
7 language can be taught to indigenous people and the many others who want  
8 to learn and preserve the *Chamorro* language; now, therefore, be it

9 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
10 on behalf of the people of Guam, request the Honorable Members of the U.S.  
11 House of Representatives to pass H.R. 4766, An Act to amend the Native  
12 American Languages Act to provide for the support of Native American  
13 Language survival schools, and for other purposes; and for the Honorable  
14 Members of the U.S. Senate to pass H.R. 4766 in its entirety; 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 the Honorable Representative Howard P. McKeon,  
18 Chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce; the Honorable  
19 George Miller, Ranking Member of the Committee on Education and the  
20 Workforce; the Honorable Representative Michael N. Castle, Chairman of the  
21 Subcommittee on Education and Reform; the Honorable Lynn C. Woolsey,  
22 Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Education and Reform; the

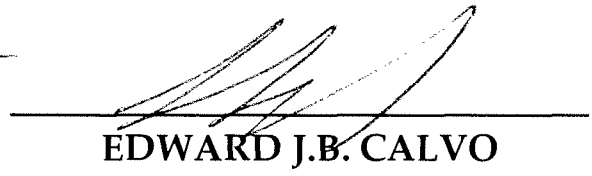
1 Honorable Representative Heather Wilson, Sponsor of H.R. 4766; the  
2 Honorable Senator John McCain, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on  
3 Indian Affairs; the Honorable Senator Byron L. Dorgan, Vice Chairman of the  
4 U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; the Honorable Madeleine Z.  
5 Bordallo, Member of Congress, U.S. House of Representatives; and to the  
6 Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guâhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 27TH DAY OF  
SEPTEMBER, 2006.**



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Forbes', written over a horizontal line.

**MARK FORBES**  
Speaker



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J.B. Calvo', written over a horizontal line.

**EDWARD J.B. CALVO**  
Senator and Legislative Secretary