

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

Resolution No. 208 (EC)

As amended.

Introduced by:

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

Relative to commending the late Gerald R. Ford, Thirty-eighth (38th) President of the United States, for his devotion to the American System of Representative Government, including approval of self-determined political status for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and to extending condolences to the Ford family.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** the people of Guam have repeatedly petitioned the
4 government of the United States of America for self-determined local
5 government, to replace Guam's status as a colonial possession under the
6 Treaty of Paris, and later, to replace their Congressionally-established Organic

1 Act territorial government with a locally-established government of their own
2 choosing; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late President Gerald R. Ford was sworn into office as
4 the Thirty-eighth (38th) President of the United States of America on August 9,
5 1974; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in light of the rapidly progressing political status
7 negotiations between the people of the Northern Mariana Islands and the
8 United States in early 1973, the people of Guam expressed their indignation at
9 having their political aspirations relegated to inferior status despite their long
10 standing as members of the American political family; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on September 12, 1973, the National Security Council
12 directed its Under Secretaries Committee to undertake a study of U.S. national
13 objectives, policies, and programs on Guam to identify a prospective course of
14 action on political status for Guam by which U.S. interests would most
15 effectively be fostered; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Under Secretaries Committee reported its final
17 recommendations for the President's review on August 9, 1974 in a one
18 hundred ninety-six (196) page report with a twenty-nine (29) page executive
19 summary and thirteen (13) annexes; and

20 **WHEREAS**, President Gerald R. Ford expressed his approval of
21 negotiations with Guam leaders on a new political status, based on the
22 recommendations of the Under Secretaries Committee, in a February 1, 1975
23 memorandum to the Under Secretaries Committee by National Security
24 Council Chairman Henry A. Kissinger; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the February 1, 1975 memorandum authorized negotiation
2 with Guam representatives to accomplish several objectives, including the
3 enablement of Guam to move towards complete self-government in internal
4 affairs under a self-drafted constitution consistent with the U.S. Constitution,
5 under “a commonwealth arrangement no less favorable than that we are
6 negotiating with the Northern Marianas”; and

7 **WHEREAS**, President Ford’s approval of the Under Secretaries
8 Committee recommendations, and the authority he granted for negotiations to
9 implement those recommendations, recognized the legitimate political
10 aspirations and political maturity of the people of Guam; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of the Interior was assigned the leading
12 role in implementing the President’s directives in a memorandum from the
13 Under Secretaries Committee dated March 11, 1975; and

14 **WHEREAS**, faithful implementation of the President’s directive would
15 have taken full advantage of contemporaneous political status initiatives by
16 Guam and Congressional leaders, namely the Guam Political Status
17 Commission and the presence of Guam’s non-voting delegate to Congress,
18 then in his first term; and

19 **WHEREAS**, faithful implementation of President Ford’s directive would
20 have rendered unnecessary the creation and decade-long effort of the Guam
21 Commission on Self-Determination to produce a draft Commonwealth Act for
22 Congressional consideration; and

23 **WHEREAS**, faithful implementation of President Ford’s directive would
24 have brought the political development of Guam along a course of political

1 union with the United States parallel to that of the Northern Mariana Islands,
2 which celebrated the twentieth (20th) anniversary of Commonwealth Status
3 and Constitutional Government earlier this year; and

4 **WHEREAS**, recognition of Guam's political aspirations by President
5 Gerald R. Ford reflects a common understanding of fairness in dealing with
6 the problems of United States citizens in a small Pacific Islands territory; and

7 **WHEREAS**, President Ford's approval of a course of action towards
8 Commonwealth Status provides a baseline from which Guam's leaders can
9 confidently promote Guam's future political status from a shared
10 understanding of the intrinsic value of Guam to the United States of America;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, the decision of former President Gerald R. Ford was not
13 revealed to those most interested in its full implementation until June 2005,
14 regrettably beyond the time when our people could have appealed for his
15 renewed intervention on our behalf; and


16 **WHEREAS**, former President Gerald R. Ford passed from this earth on
17 December 26, 2006; now, therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina' Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
19 on behalf of the people of Guam, commend the late President Gerald R. Ford
20 for his forthright decision in 1974, to recognize and respect the legitimate
21 political aspirations of the people of Guam; and be it further


1 **RESOLVED**, that the Legislature expresses its profound condolences to
2 his wife, Mrs. Betty Ford and the Ford family on the occasion of his passing;
3 and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
5 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be
6 thereafter transmitted to Mrs. Betty Ford; to Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam
7 Delegate, United States Congress; to Mr. Ruben Barrales, White House
8 Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; to the Honorable George W. Bush,
9 President, United States of America; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
10 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 29TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2006.**



MARK FORBES
Speaker



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