

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

Resolution No. 4 (EC)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

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

Relative to requesting *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan* to pursue technical assistance from the United States Department of Interior, the United States Economic Development Administration and the United States Department of State, in an effort to market Guam as a regional headquarters for American corporations doing business in the Asia-Pacific region.

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

3 **WHEREAS,** the island of Guam is an unincorporated territory of the
4 United States, and is the largest of the Mariana Islands and the largest island

1 in Micronesia, strategically located in the western Pacific Ocean, south of
2 Japan and east of the Republic of the Philippines; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the island of Guam offers incentives for investing in Guam,
4 including the unincorporated territory's political status and its strategic
5 location as America's gateway to Asia; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a variety of different American companies have based their
7 regional headquarters in such areas as Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing,
8 Taiwan, Tokyo, and Seoul; providing employment opportunities, tax
9 revenues, and additional economic vitality in these locations; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the island of Guam is seeking the establishment of a Visa
11 Waiver program with the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of China,
12 and South Korea, suggesting to the Department of State that Guam be used as
13 a test destination for the newly developed computer-generated biometric
14 identification visa cards, while maintaining our nation's homeland security;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has enabled Guam to compete
17 with the fifty (50) States through the "Guam Foreign Investment Equity Act",
18 to competitively apply similar tax rates to income earned by foreign investors;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, Guam's tax incentives through the Guam Economic
21 Development and Commerce Authority (GEDCA) Qualifying Certificate
22 program provides limited rebates on corporate taxes; and

1 **WHEREAS**, GEDCA's Qualifying Certificate program has been
2 instrumental in creating the island's tourism-based economy through the
3 attraction of foreign investment opportunities on Guam; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the United States military's renewed strategic interest in
5 investing on Guam came on the heels of the post-September 11, 2001
6 environment, which heightened efforts to make the nation more secure; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Guam has the necessary physical plant and social
8 infrastructure to accommodate and sustain a viable investment and business
9 climate; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the changes in how business is conducted
11 after September 11, 2001, the United States Congress has enacted nearly two
12 (2) dozen bills related to homeland security, which have completely
13 transformed Federal legislation governing immigration, finance, labor,
14 intellectual property, ports and transportation, energy and environment, and
15 food and drugs, all of which entail countless Federal regulatory changes
16 affecting Guam's economic infrastructure; now, therefore, be it

17 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
18 on behalf of the people of Guam, request *I Maga'lahen Guåhan* to pursue
19 technical assistance from the United States Department of Interior, the United
20 States Economic Development Administration and the United States
21 Department of State, in an effort to market Guam as a regional headquarters
22 for American corporations doing business in the Asia-Pacific region; and be it
23 further

1 **RESOLVED**, that technical assistance be granted for the following
2 purposes: to review all Federal and Guam laws regarding business and
3 business incentives and to make recommendations on how to make Guam
4 more attractive as a proposed regional business headquarters; and to assist in
5 the formulation of a public relations campaign to market Guam as a regional
6 headquarters for American corporations doing business in the Asia-Pacific
7 region; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the
9 Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be
10 thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Gale A. Norton, Secretary, United
11 States Department of Interior; to the United States Economic Development
12 Administration; to the Honorable Colin L. Powell, Secretary, United States
13 Department of State; to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the
14 United States of America; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I*
15 *Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 4TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2005.



MARK FORBES
Speaker



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