

**I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session**

2008 SEP 24 PM 1:12

Resolution No. 186(LS)

Introduced by:

R.J. Respicio
J.P. Guthertz
B.J.F. Cruz

Relative to acknowledging and commending the Judiciary of Guam, as well as the organizers, team members and participants, who are working to establish Guam's "Play by the Rules" youth law education program in Guam's middle schools to help young people understand democracy, as well as the Constitution and the judicial systems of Guam and the United States.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM;

WHEREAS, Guam is one of four jurisdictions across the United States selected to participate in an innovative and successful school curriculum designed to provide law education to middle school students, known as "Play by the Rules," or PBR; and

WHEREAS, this curriculum is directed by the Alabama Center for Law and Civic Education (ACLCE), and is taught as a part of the seventh-grade civics curriculum in all Alabama public schools, and in its six years of existence the program has had an impact on more than 400,000 students in Alabama schools; and

WHEREAS, following the receipt of a \$1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to expand the outreach of the PBR program to other jurisdictions, the ACLCE selected the middle school students of Texas, Connecticut, Nevada and Guam to join students in Alabama as program participants; and

WHEREAS, the Judiciary of Guam has received a grant of \$200,000 (Two-Hundred Thousand Dollars) to be utilized, in collaboration with the Guam Public School System, to help young people understand democracy, as well as the constitutions and the judicial systems of Guam and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in his first State of the Judiciary address, Guam Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert J. Torres said that the PBR program “provides a ‘playbook’ based on 200 of Guam’s laws to teach school children accountability, making it possible for us to bring practical applications of law into the daily lives of over 4,000 middle-school students,” and also stated that “Holding children accountable to the law without teaching them the law is not working;” and

WHEREAS, PBR funding includes adaptation, development and printing of textbooks, teacher guides and outreach materials, plus teacher training and participation in conferences, as well as providing for start-up personnel at participating organizations; and

WHEREAS, using textbooks written in easily understood language, and illustrated with caricatures of the official birds of the states and territories as textbook “mascots,” the curriculum invites student engagement through a theme tied to the popular sport of baseball; and

WHEREAS, the official bird of Guam, the *Ko’ko* or Guam rail, will be used in the PBR textbook, entitled “Play by the Rules: Guam Laws for Youth,” to interest students in learning about law and addressing topics to include the rule of law, juvenile justice, crimes, weapons, alcohol and other drugs, family law, recreation law, school law, transportation, employment law, civic responsibility, technology and Internet safety; and

WHEREAS, stating that she is pleased to have the Judiciary of Guam join the team for this educational effort, national PBR Project Director

Ponya Parks said that “education programs consistently contribute positively toward crime prevention,” and that “PBR and its state and territorial partners are making an ambitious attempt to provide students with the tools they need to prevent crime, save lives and build safer communities;” and

WHEREAS, the Guam Public School System has been a tremendous asset in helping to make the PBR program possible here, Chief Justice Torres stating that “GPSS should be applauded for their hard work in helping to bring a program like PBR to our future responsible citizens ... the children of Guam;” and

WHEREAS, coordinated by Judiciary of Guam Supreme Court Chamber Administrator Joleen F. Respicio, the PBR program is currently undergoing a comprehensive evaluation process by the Guam PBR Team by using evidence-based standards, such independent evaluation contributing to PBR being recognized as a science-based, “proven” program following analysis of the data generated in the assessment, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby acknowledge and commend the Judiciary of Guam, as well as the organizers, team members and participants, who are working to establish Guam’s “Play by the Rules” youth law education program in Guam’s middle schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*, on behalf of the people of Guam, does hereby recognize the Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education & PBR National Project Staff, and the Guam Public School System for making possible the implementation of the PBR program in Guam’s middle schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify and the Secretary of the Legislature attest the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Janet Bedford, Executive Director of the Alabama Center for Law & Civic Education; to Ponya Parks, Director, PBR National Project; to each of the members of the Guam PBR Team: Danielle Rosete, Daniel Rislove, Margaret 'Peggy' Paulino, Vera M. R. Flores, James M. Petite, Connie Q. Santiago, Benjie Santiago, Carmen Garrido, James Szafranski, Ed.D, J.D., Dr. Richard H.J. Wyttenbach-Santos, Dr. Edward Santos, Sgt. Ron Taitano, Carol Hinkle Sanchez, Esq., Geraldine Cepeda, Esq., Annie Gayle, Esq., Joseph E. Montague, Luis S.N. Reyes, Dr. Nerissa Bretania-Shafer, Ignacio Santos, Raymond R. Dungca, and the Honorable Judith Paulette Guthertz DPA, Senator; to Guam PBR Coordinator Joleen F. Respicio; to the Honorable Robert J. Torres, Chief Justice of Guam; and to the Governor of Guam.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THIS 24TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2008.