

Håfa adai, Hamyo Todos guenao hulo'!

Guåhu si Robert Leon Guerrero Benavente—che'lon defunto Maga'låhi si Ed Benavente. You know, last night ha' I went to the Chamorro Land Trust just to figure this thing out—figure out what's going on with the Chamorro Land Trust. Even my brother was making... on behalf of the Chamorro Land Trust. That was a while ago. And I was just trying to look where he left off so I could carry on what was left. The problem lies with our leaders, really. If we had, for example when we implemented the Chamorro Land Trust in the beginning—1995—1995, right? Our leaders should have looked for something that won't harm the Chamorro Land Trust in the beginning and protected instead of squabbling. Every administration, directors, changing their own policies and so forth. I'm glad there's a lot of young senators out there who have bright minds opened, hearts, and so forth. Lanña' lai, I'm fed up. For this kind of issues, Ga'chong. I just came from the woodwork—lanña' ga'chong. And this should have been done yesterday to sustain the Chamorro Land Trust for our future generations to come which is not me—is your children—our children... like my brother always said, "I tano'-ta, I famagu'on-ta, karetå-ta, asaguå-ta, gumå'-ta..." it is us. It is only us, that we could fix this problem. If we stand together like—man, I hear everybody else here talking about their life history. Thank God you guys listen, you know? But let's proceed forward and do something with it. For example, what are we going to face Judge Gatewood?

On my first example, I will take an issue from the United States itself. The Indian reservation, is that segregation? Hawai'ian Trust Act is what—*racist*? How about Chamorro Land Trust now which is a territory? As leaders here—thank God I didn't win for senator. I will fight this through, and I will walk out to any Congress or Washington if they don't hear us.

My goodness, I am 64-years-old... great grandfather esta! What are we waiting for? Our foundation is falling like it was a paper rag down there. Låstima latte! My goodness! Ai, Ga'chong. Let's take those åcho' atupat and start throwing it back. There are 15 of you guys, apparently. We have our leaders here. We have our lawyers. Our judges—local judges that has been—manma na'fanmamåhlao—shamed—from the District Court. Why didn't the District Court fight that 22 years ago? Why? They just waited for Dave Davis?

While those things were happening from 1995, they should have protected the Chamorro Land Trust entity. Take it out from the government. I mentioned that to—even former Senator Ted Nelson when we had that hearing. We should take away the Chamorro Land Trust – away from the entity of the government so the government won't be liable for lawsuit. Håfa lai? Form a tribunal council in there. My goodness, Ga'chong, wake up and smell the coffee. I'm a veteran. I don't need this (gestures to the microphone). I'm a veteran, and I served my time in the military, but it's insulting for me to hear it again and again, Ga'chong.

I'm too old for this crap, and I don't care what race or color, you probably should understand where we are coming from as Chamorros. If we go to your country, we won't have that opportunity like Guam.

“Guam is a U.S. Territory—everybody could come in.”

“You’re not invited, Buddy...” You came here for a reason—not to kill, not to murder.

**Senator Michael F.Q. San Nicolas** Señor, can we just make sure you’re speaking into the microphone? We need to capture this for the recording and also for the people who are watching, because what you’re saying is very, very important.

**Robert Benavente** Oh, I’m sorry. Next time put a cushion down there.

Anyway, I’m being realistic. I am for sure in my heart, and to all these people that are here today. Even my cousin, si Bob Pelkey. Everybody here—I practically know everybody. From si Mike, from Victoria... all 25 years ago... this is all the hearts that we have. We got the hearts here. We got the fuel. By numbers? We don’t need to—take the census di fino’ si former Senator... when I was reading the messenger... we’ll take the Census from the 1900s of the Chamorro natives and utilize that. Dalai, Ga’chong, everybody died from that Census? I don’t think so.

Use that for your arms. Use the Indian Reservation. Use the Hawai’ian Trust Act—use that. Let’s see what Francis Gatewood would say. Racist? Discrimination? I would love to say something nice, but forget it.

I don’t want to come back again and again, but Senator San Nicolas, I know you’re very vocal with so many things. But as far as—and I hope that everybody does in the future—because I will still vote for you—I don’t care what party you’re from, but as long as you do your job, do it right.

Right now, it’s from one administration to the other, to the other senators—they will do this. They will do this, every two years. They will do this for the poor—nothing’s happening. Nothing’s happening, but crisis on our hand today.

I’ll just leave it at that, Senator. And I thank God that everybody is here to testify today on behalf of the Chamorro Land Trust and also Resolutions 51 and 52—I’m very supportive of that, because it goes in the same bowl. This is where we came from, and so we have to stand up for who we are.

Si Yu’os ma’åse’, lai.