

Buenas yan Håfa Adai Speaker Cruz, Vice Speaker Terlaje and Senators of I Mina'trentai Kuåttro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan. Si Yu'os Ma'åse' Todus Hamyo.

I na'an-hu siRay Lujan and I come before you all today on behalf of the Social Work Student Alliance out of I Unibetsidåt Guåhan, in support of *Resolution 51-34 (LS)*, to support an appeal in the recent ruling of *Davis v. Guam*.

As future social workers, we will soon be working with some of the most marginalized peoples in all levels of our society and in varying capacities. One of the bedrocks and foundations to our understanding of such issues were introduced to us upon entry of the social work program in a class called Social Justice. There, we learned of the importance of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments which aims to promote and protect human rights and social welfare. We learned of the history and context to which they were created and we learned how influential such instruments are in guiding the practice and ethics of the field of social work.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues defines indigenous peoples in context to political participation by stating that “indigenous peoples often have much in common with other neglected segments of societies...lack of political representation and participation, economic marginalization and poverty, lack of access to social services and discrimination. Despite their cultural differences, the diverse indigenous peoples share common problems also related to the protection of their rights. They strive for recognition of their identities, their ways of life and their right to traditional lands, territories and natural resources” (UN Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Voices).

It is a sad time that we live in to see the selective application of the U.S. Constitution come to the limelight in such an important month for our people, *Mes CHamoru*, which once more reminds us that we are but second class citizens. It was one thing to learn how this instrument has violated the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the onset of U.S. colonization by taking land, displacing peoples and families, creating dependency, using our island merely for geo-political military strategy, and banning the use of our native language; but it is another thing to witness it firsthand. The one thing that we have left to right the wrongs of the past and bring justice to our people was once more taken away for the benefit of non-natives. To add further insult, we were also called racist and discriminatory in accordance to the 15th amendment of the U.S. Constitution which is a product of American racism and is alive and well to this day.

While I am devastated, I come before you with the faith and hope that you, our elected leaders, will hear our voices, do what is right and just, and fight for our people. The true measurement of our colonization will be determined if we accept this ruling.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!