

Resolution 51-34 (LS)

“RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM MOVE FORWARD TO APPEAL THE RULING OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM TO ASSIST THE DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OF GUAM” sponsored by **Therese M. Terlaje**

03/17/2017

Buenas yan hafa adai Vice Speaker Terlaje and senators para i Mina'trentai kuratro na lehislatura. I thank you all for this opportunity to present my testimony in support of Resolution 51-34 (LS) to support an appeal in Davis v. GEC.

Si Rosario Perez yu'. I am Rosario Perez. I am a student of the University of Guam double majoring in Social Work and Chamorro studies. Since high school I have studied the different colonial periods of Guam, particularly the colonial period we live in today. I have learned about the positive and negative effects on the people. I have done most of my papers and projects about colonialism on Guam, but I still feel that my knowledge of the subject is never satiated nor completed.

My research has shown me that Guam became an unincorporated territory of the United States established by the 1950 Organic Act of Guam. Public Law 25-106 specified the need for Guam's people to “exercise the inalienable right to self-determination of their political relationship with the United States of America,” and describes the right “founded by the 1898 Treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain (PL25-106).” The law also specifies that those who are eligible to vote are the native inhabitants of Guam, which is defined as those who were made U.S. citizens via the Organic Act in 1950, including their descendents.

To an extent, I understand the reasoning behind the ruling of the Davis case, defined through the U.S. Constitution, but as a Chamorro and Native Inhabitant it is upsetting to hear that my right to self-determination is “racist” or “unconstitutional.” This is an inalienable right that should be granted to all colonized people of the world.

I mean not be a lawyer but the plebiscite to determine Guam's future is not meant to be exclusive, but rather it is meant to empower the native inhabitants and the

indigenous people in their right to self-determination. The indigenous people of Guam are the Chamorro people. The Native inhabitants are those who were made U.S. citizens via the Organic Act. This includes the Chamorro people and any other person who was here on Guam in 1950.

Just as the United States and other independent nations of the world exercised their rights, it is now time for Guam to decide. But it would be continued oppression to have those who are not native inhabitants or indigenous Chamorros decide our future.

It is because this resolution benefits our community and helps ensure our right to self-determination that I am here today speaking to all of you in support of this bill.

Ginen i mäs takhalom gi anti-hu. put fabot, mungga malefa i taotao Guåhan.

From the deepest of my soul, please don't forget the people of Guam.

Si Yu'os ma'ase.

Thank You.

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