EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2006-28

RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF THE PROTEHI Y CORAZON TASK FORCE TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT AND ACCESS TO AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

WHEREAS, sudden cardiac arrest, or SCA, is a leading cause of death in the United States, claiming the lives of as many as 200,000 people each year. Up to 50,000 of those deaths may have been preventable if earlier access to proper care was made available; and,

WHEREAS, while the causes of SCA are poorly understood, it is clear people with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training and access to an automatic external defibrillator are two of the most critical needs to help SCA victims survive; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and Social Services has been awarded a federal grant to help make external defibrillators more widely available in the community, to provide more people with CPR training, and to increase public awareness of SCA and the most effective means to help patients survive; and,

WHEREAS, Guam already has automatic external defibrillators, or AEDs, at the Guam Memorial Hospital, community health centers, many clinics, and all emergency medical services vehicles, but providing more AEDs may help save lives; and,

WHEREAS, Guam’s Office of Emergency Medical Services has partnered with various community leaders to create an awareness plan, purchase and place at least 40 AEDs in public areas, and train pre-hospital providers and members of the public to use the AEDs and administer basic life support services; and

WHEREAS, the Office of EMS seeks to further engage community members through a task force that will raise public awareness, seek additional funding opportunities for public access defibrillation and related programs, promote more widespread public CPR training, and increase the number of AEDs available in the community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FELIX P. CAMACHO, Governor of Guam, Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby declare that:

1. Lead Agency. The Department of Public Health and Social Services Office of Emergency Medical Services shall coordinate planning efforts between different segments of the community;

2. Protehi Y Corazon Task Force. A task force is hereby established to coordinate Public Access Defibrillation programs and plans, to increase public awareness about defibrillation and sudden cardiac arrest, to promote widespread CPR training, and to maximize the number of automatic external defibrillators in the community.

The task force shall include:
The task force shall also include representatives from the Guam Medical Society, the American Red Cross, the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association, CPR training organizations, community organizations, and other members as may be appropriate. The task force shall encourage additional community partners to join the task force.

3. The task force shall develop public awareness programs about sudden cardiac arrest and the appropriate use of CPR and AEDs to provide immediate attention to SCA victims.

4. The task force shall work with the Office of Emergency Medical Services and CPR training organizations to promote more widespread CPR training and encourage more members of the general public to receive this training.

5. The task force shall seek programs and funding to make more AEDs available to community facilities, ensuring that people receive the necessary training to use the devices and provide attention to SCA victims.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Hagåtña, Guam this 31st day of October 2006.

FELIX P. CAMACHO
I Maga’ Låhen Guåhan
Governor of Guam