WHEREAS, there exists in the Territory of Guam an increasing problem of suicide among adults and, most prevalently, among teenagers; and

WHEREAS, the rapid changes taking place in our island society are contributing in part to a sense of cultural disorientation and the disruption of traditional helping mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, more needs to be done to shore up traditional helping mechanisms and establish new help mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon the community to explore such methods which may contribute to a lessening of stress factors and the strengthening of structures which may lead to constructive solutions to social and personal problems among our people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH F. ADA, Governor of the Territory of Guam, by the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, do hereby create the GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON SUICIDE PREVENTION. This Task Force shall consist of the following members:

Rowena Punzalan, Governor’s Office
Anita Sukola, DOE
The Honorable Judge B.J. Cruz
Dr. Kurt Bellis
Marilyn Wingfield, DMHSA
Luis Martinez, DOE
Vincent Leon Guerrero, DOE
Edward Guerrero, DOL
Ann Harding, US Navy, Family Services
George Patican, GMH
Vincent Pereda
Carol O’Donnell
Marylou Taijeron, DPHSS
Anthony Champaco, Sanctuary
Sarah Thomas, Sanctuary
1. The Governor may augment the composition of this Task Force at a later date.

2. The Task Force shall be responsible for the compilation of a report to the Governor on Suicide in the Territory of Guam. This report shall consist of a study of the scope and extent of the suicide problem, causal factors, and mitigation procedures to include but not limited to the establishment of peer counseling programs in the Department of Education and the establishment of a 24-hour hotline and crisis intervention capability in the Territory of Guam capable of responding immediately to crisis problems experienced by Guam residents of any age.

This Order shall be effective upon approval of the Governor and upon the filing of said Order with the Legislative Secretary of the Guam Legislature.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED at Agana, Guam this 6th day of April, 1990.

JOSEPH F. ADA
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

TED S. NELSON
Lt. Governor of Guam, Acting