

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS


Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
143-36 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje Jose "Pedro" Terlaje	Relative to expressing the support of <i>I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guðhan</i> and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.	8/6/21 12:35 p.m.			8/10/21 12:29 p.m.	Author	8/18/21 12:00 p.m.	9/13/21 11:56 a.m.	



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

September 8, 2021

The Honorable Amanda L. Shelton 

Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 143 -36 (LS)

Håfa Adai Acting Chairperson Shelton:

Transmitted herewith for consideration by the Body is the Report on Res No. 143-36 (LS) – “Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.” which was publicly heard on Wednesday, August 18, 2021.

Sincerely,



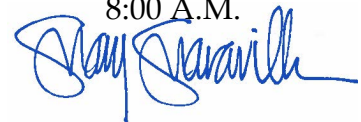
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

September 8, 2021

8:00 A.M.



Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

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please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

AUTHOR'S REPORT

RESOLUTION NO. 143-36 (LS)

By Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Senator Jose
"Pedo" Terlaje

"Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes."

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Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-472-2461
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

August 10, 2021

MEMO

To: **Rennae Meno**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Amanda L. Shelton**
Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: **Referral of Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)**

Buenas yan Håfa adai,

As per my authority as Acting Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – “Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.”

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred to **Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Author of Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Amanda L. Shelton

Acting Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

FIRST NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 11:58 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, Tom Unsioq <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Ibarra Hernandez <ihernandez@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: psablan@guampdn.com, mangilao.vicemayor@gmail.com, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, Mayor Taitague <talofomayor@gmail.com>, manasilva626@yahoo.com, "Wen, Anne" <AWen@guam.gannett.com>, mtmmayorpaco17@gmail.com, haidee@postguam.com, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, agatvice.chrisfejeran@yahoo.com, Phil Leon Guerrero <phil@postguam.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, life@guampdn.com, "Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin." <mcogadmin@teleguam.net>, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, rudy iriarte [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, "Mayor Frankie A. Salas" <asanmainamayor@gmail.com>, jolene@spbguam.com, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbguam.com>, K57 <news@k57.com>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, "Stole, Jasmine" <jstole@guam.gannett.com>, inalahanmayor@gmail.com, ymayortony@gmail.com, KISH <kstokish@gmail.com>, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, michael ko [REDACTED]@hotmail.com, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, mayorerneatc@yahoo.com, Chris Malafunkshun Barnett <Chris@kuam.com>, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpesofguam.com>, Mai Habib <mai.habib@spbguam.com>, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, emmanuel@mvariety.com, KPRG <admin.kprg@gmail.com>, Maria Louella Losinio [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, John Oconnor <john@postguam.com>, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, onedededo@gmail.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, Rindraty Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, atoves.tatuha@gmail.com, Jessie Bautista [REDACTED]@gmail.com, MELISSA SAVARES <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, Oyaol Ngirairikl <managingeditor@postguam.com>, bryan@mvariety.com, reporters@postguam.com, KPRG Guam <pdkprg@gmail.com>, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, "Limtiaco, Steve" <slimtiac@guam.gannett.com>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbguam.com>, Kelly Park [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, June Blas <mayorbarrigada@gmail.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, Manuel Cruz <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>, "Santo Tomas, Joseph (Jojo)" <jsantotoma@guam.gannett.com>, mindy@postguam.com, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, Allan Ungacta <mayorallan.ungacta@yahoo.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, Kevin Kerrigan <kevin@spbguam.com>, gerry@spbguam.com, Jesse Alig <jesse.alig@pitiguam.com>, GovGU Meeting <govguammeetings@oagguam.org>, agatmayor@yahoo.com, Nestor Licanto <nestor@kuam.com>, dcrisost@guam.gannett.com, Dale Alvarez <dalealvarez@gmail.com>, editor@saipantribune.com, akaur@gannett.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, junhan@mvariety.com, reporters@kuam.com, "San Nicolas, Michael" <michael.sannicolas@mail.house.gov>, Kilili Sablan <kilili@mail.house.gov>, tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov, "Aien, Nelta" <Nelta.Aien@mail.house.gov>, "Winn, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Winn@mail.house.gov>

August 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Subject: **FIRST NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai,

The Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje will be conducting a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's hybrid meeting platform, for the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** - Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje- Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

Individuals are invited to provide live testimony **in person or virtually** on the agenda items. Please contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com to register. **Registration deadline is 5:00PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.** Written testimony may also be submitted via email to the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. All written testimony submitted will be placed on the record of the agenda item.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals in need of assistance or accommodations should also contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 or Channel 112-4 for Docomo customers without set top boxes; and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm.

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910


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website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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2 attachments

 **FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON RES. NO. 143-36 (LS)_AUGUST 18, 2021 AT 12PM.pdf**
214K

 **Res. No. 143-36 (LS).pdf**
3244K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Subject: **FIRST NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM**

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Climate report 'a code red for humanity'

Polluting nations urged to suspend use of fossil fuels

By Eric Roston and Akshat Rathi
Bloomberg

An epochal new report from the world's top climate scientists warns that the planet will warm by 1.5 degrees Celsius in the next two decades without drastic moves to eliminate greenhouse gas pollution. The finding from the United Nations-backed group throws a key goal of the Paris Agreement into danger as signs of climate change become apparent across every part of the world.

The latest scientific assessment from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the first time speaks with certainty about the total responsibility of human activity for rising temperatures. The scientists forecast no end to warming trends until emissions cease.

"It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land," wrote the authors of the IPCC's sixth global science assessment since 1990 and the first released in more than eight years. The crucial warming threshold of 2 degrees Celsius will be "exceeded during the 21st century," the IPCC authors concluded, without deep emissions cuts "in the coming decades."

The assessment released on Monday is the work of more than



CLIMATE CRISIS: A local resident gestures as he holds an empty water hose during an attempt to extinguish forest fires approaching the village of Pefki on Evia island, Greece's second largest island, on Sunday. Angelos Tzortzinis/AFP via Getty Images/Tribune News Service

.....
“This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet.”
— Antonio Guterres, secretary-general, United Nations
.....

200 scientists digesting thousands of studies, and an accompanying summary was approved by delegates from 195 countries. More than any other forecast or record, this report's determinations establish a powerful global consensus - less than three months before the UN's COP26 inter-

national climate talks.

Among the headline findings: The past decade was most likely hotter than any period in the last 125,000 years, when sea levels were as much as 10 meters higher. Combustion and deforestation have also raised carbon dioxide in the atmosphere higher than they've been in 2 million years, according to the report, and agriculture and fossil fuels have contributed to methane and nitrous oxide concentration higher than any point in at least 800,000 years.

The full, 3,949-page assessment was released in conjunction with the 42-page "summary for policymakers." While the latter went through a diplomatic approval process in addition to a scientific one, the former comes

directly from scientists. Chapter one of the underlying report includes strong language admonishing Paris signatories, calling their pledges so far under the agreement "insufficient to reduce greenhouse gas emission enough" to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.


The document is "a code red for humanity," said Antonio Guterres, secretary-general of the United Nations, in prepared remarks tied to the release. "This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels before they destroy our planet."

"Our opportunity ... has an expiration date"

Even as the IPCC authors have done away with some of the cautious uncertainty that marked past assessments, the last few months have seen a series of rapid-fire climate disasters that underline the new language. Summertime in the Northern Hemisphere has been marred by severe flooding across Europe and China, as well as alarming drought and the early onset of large wildfires in the Western U.S. and Canada. One of the coldest places on the planet, Siberia, has experienced severe heat and forest fires. Just this past weekend brought disturbing footage of people fleeing sprawling wildfires in Greece.

Nearly all of this can be attributed to human influence. The IPCC found that the combined effects of human activity have already increased the global average temperature by about 1.1 degrees Celsius above the late 19th-century average. The contri-

CLIMATE continued on page 17

 **SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE**
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature

**NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING ON
RESOLUTION NO. 143-36 (LS)**

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 • 12:00 PM


Utilizing the Guam Legislature's Hybrid meeting format for combined in person attendance in the Legislature's public hearing room, and virtual attendance utilizing the Legislature's Zoom hearing platform, on the following:

Resolution 143-36 (LS) – Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje - Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

The resolution can be found at <https://guamlegislature.com/index/36th-guam-legislature-resolutions/>.


Please contact (671) 472-3586 or senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com by Tuesday, August 17, to receive the Zoom link, if you wish to provide virtual testimony. Written testimony can be submitted via email or to the Office of Speaker Therese Terlaje at the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam.

The hearing will be broadcast on GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 or 112-4 and at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the session. Please email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call 472-3586, if you require any special accommodations or further information. *This ad is paid for by Legislature funds.*

 **BUREAU OF
STATISTICS & PLANS**
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Government of Guam
P.O. Box 2950 Hagåtña, Guam 96932
Tel: (671) 472-4201/3
Fax: (671) 477-1812

Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
Governor of Guam

Joshua F. Tenorio
Lieutenant Governor

 **Tyrone J. Taitano**
Director

Matthew C. Santos
Deputy Director

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-BSP-2021-003**

The Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) is soliciting proposals for an experienced and qualified Offeror to provide professional Short Messaging System (SMS) ("Services") to assist the Government of Guam for the Duration of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The issuance of this RFP in no way constitutes a commitment by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans to award a contract.

All entities interested in submitting a proposal may request for an electronic copy of the Request for Proposal (RFP) beginning **Wednesday, August 11, 2021 to Friday, August 27, 2021** by emailing Ms. Sonia Siliang at sonia.siliang@bsp.guam.gov Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding Government of Guam holidays. Electronic copies of the RFP are also available online at the following website www.bsp.guam.gov. BSP recommends that prospective offerors register their contact information with the BSP to ensure they receive any notices regarding any changes or updates to the RFP. GSA and/or BSP shall not be liable for failure to provide notice to any party who did not register their contact information.

Proposals must be submitted to the Bureau of Statistics and Plans' Director's Office, Bureau of Statistics and Plans, located at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex, Adelup, 513 West Marine Corps Drive, Hagåtña by no later than **5:00 pm, Friday, September 17, 2021**. Failure to submit Proposals at the specified location, date, and time will be grounds for rejection of the Proposal.

This activity is supported by funding through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program for Guam and administered by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans.

/s/ **TYRONE J. TAITANO**
Director

This advertisement is paid with U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program federal funds under Grant Award Number 2020-VD-BX-0029



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

SECOND NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 8:50 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Cc: Tom Unsiog <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, Guam MIS <mis@guamlegislature.org>

Bcc: Desk Editor <deskeditor@postguam.com>, mindy@postguam.com, The Post Editor in Chief <editor@postguam.com>, Oyaol Ngirairiki <managingeditor@postguam.com>, haidee@postguam.com, John Oconnor <john@postguam.com>, reporters@postguam.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, Rindraty Limtiaco <slimtiaco@guampdn.com>, Guam PDN <news@guampdn.com>, Jerick Sablan <jpsablan@guampdn.com>, dcristos@guam.gannett.com, life@guampdn.com, dmgeorge@guampdn.com, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, Pacific Island Times <pacificislandtimes@gmail.com>, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofguam.com>, bryan@mvariety.com, emmanuel@mvariety.com, junhan@mvariety.com, guam@pstripes.osd.mil, carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil, mabuhaynews@yahoo.com, editor@saipantribune.com, Bruce Hill <pacificjournalist@gmail.com>, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, Chris Malafunkshun Barnett <Chris@kuam.com>, Nestor Licanto <nestor@kuam.com>, reporters@kuam.com, K57 <news@k57.com>, Patti Rodriguez <parroyo@spbgua.com>, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, Sorensen Pacific Broadcasting <news@spbgua.com>, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, [REDACTED]@yahoo.com, KISH <kstokish@gmail.com>, Manuel Cruz <cruzma812@gmail.com>, Troy Torres <troy@kanditnews.com>, Maria Louella Losinio [REDACTED]@gmail.com, "Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin." <mcogadmin@teleguam.net>, "Mayor Paul M. McDonald" <mayor.mcdonald671@gmail.com>, agatmayor@yahoo.com, agatvice.chrisfejeran@yahoo.com, "Mayor Frankie A. Salas" <asanmainamayor@gmail.com>, June Blas <mayorbarrigada@gmail.com>, Jessie Bautista [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Jessy Gogue <ocp.mayor@gmail.com>, MELISSA SAVARES <melissa.savares@gmail.com>, onedededo@gmail.com, hagatnamayor@hotmail.com, inalahanmayor@gmail.com, Allan Ungacta <mayorallan.ungacta@yahoo.com>, mangilao.vicemayor@gmail.com, mayorernestc@yahoo.com, mtmmayorpaco17@gmail.com, Jesse Alig <jesse.alig@pitiguam.com>, Dale Alvarez [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Robert Hofmann <guammayor@gmail.com>, rudy iriarte [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Mayor Taitague <talofomayor@gmail.com>, "Mayor Louise C. Rivera" <Mayorlcrivera.tatuha@gmail.com>, atoves.tatuha@gmail.com, Umatac Mayor <umatacmo@gmail.com>, ymayortony@gmail.com, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, yonamayor2020@gmail.com, jolene@postguam.com, Phil Leon Guerrero <phil@postguam.com>, Gerry Partido <gerrypartido@gmail.com>, gerry@spbgua.com, "Santo Tomas, Joseph (Jojo)" <jsantotoma@guam.gannett.com>, "Limtiaco, Steve" <slimtiaco@guam.gannett.com>, "Wen, Anne" <AWen@guam.gannett.com>, "Taitano, Joseph" <JTaitano@guam.gannett.com>, CLee3@guam.gannett.com, dclymer@guampdn.com, Damen Borja <damen@spbgua.com>, tony@spbgua.com, [REDACTED]@gmail.com, Bill Cundiff [REDACTED]@gmail.com, MCOG Admin <admin@mcoguam.org>, Joaquin Santos Jr [REDACTED]@yahoo.com, tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov, esther.aguigui@ghs.guam.gov, "Winn, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Winn@mail.house.gov>, "San Nicolas, Michael" <michael.sannicolas@mail.house.gov>, "Aien, Nelta" <Nelta.Aien@mail.house.gov>, [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

August 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM**

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- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** - Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje- Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

Individuals are invited to provide live testimony **in person or virtually** on the agenda items. Please contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com to register. **Registration deadline is 5:00PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.** Written testimony may also be submitted via email to the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. All written testimony submitted will be placed on the record of the agenda item.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals in need of assistance or accommodations should also contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 or Channel 112-4 for Docomo customers without set top boxes; and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm.

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature


Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910


T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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3 attachments

 **Res. No. 143-36 (LS).pdf**
3244K

 **H.R. 3730_06.4.2021.pdf**
256K

 **SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON RES. NO. 143-36 (LS)_AUGUST 18, 2021 AT 12PM.pdf**
239K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*

Subject: **SECOND NOTICE of Hybrid Public Hearing – Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 PM**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai,

The Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje will be conducting a virtual public hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's hybrid meeting platform, for the following agenda item:

- [Resolution No. 143-36 \(LS\)](#) - Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje- Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

Individuals are invited to provide live testimony **in person or virtually** on the agenda items. Please contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com to register. **Registration deadline is 5:00PM on Tuesday, August 17, 2021.** Written testimony may also be submitted via email to the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. All written testimony submitted will be placed on the record of the agenda item.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Individuals in need of assistance or accommodations should also contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4 or Channel 112-4 for Docomo customers without set top boxes; and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm.

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com
**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*

Lawmakers set to debate use of EITC

By John O'Connor
john@postguam.com

Local lawmakers may be poised to debate the use of earned income tax credit reimbursements as budget talks move forward this month.

The current budget bill reserves 72% of about \$55 million in anticipated EITC reimbursement as funding for the design and construction of the Twenty-First Century Healthcare Center of Excellence, as well as a new prison facility.

Any remaining balance of the EITC reimbursement shall be deposited into an existing trust fund for the payment of tax refunds, according to the current budget bill.

But Sen. Mary Torres also wants to tap into EITC to fund nurse pay increases, which is otherwise missing from the current budget proposal.

Moreover, after session Friday, Speaker Therese Terlaje published a release saying she had proffered an

amendment that would lock away EITC and child tax credit reimbursements for the swift payment of tax refunds eligible for the two payments.

The amendment is similar to the speaker's Bill 175-36, which was introduced prior to the release of the budget bill.

"In previous years, GovGuam has held on to tax refunds in order to pay itself first. We have seen great improvements and want to continue to aim for the payment of refunds within 30 days. Prompt payment of EITC and CTC will help to offset the loss of the (Pandemic Unemployment Assistance) for families in need," the speaker stated.

Legislative budget talks for government of Guam fiscal year 2022 appropriations began in earnest Friday, with much of the discussion centered around how tax credit reimbursements will be handled.

Department of Revenue and Taxa-

tion Director Dafne Mansapit-Shimizu said local officials still need to

work on an implementation plan with the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Department of the Treasury for upcoming federal reimbursements of EITC, and she isn't sure yet how the money might be paid to Guam.

Mansapit-Shimizu said she hopes the EITC reimbursement will be provided as an advance, but plans will likely not be finalized until near the end of the calendar year, as local officials are currently in discussion with federal partners on child tax credit reimbursements.

Bureau of Budget and Management Research Director Lester Carlson said there may be a lag in the receipt of EITC because of the tax cycle, and he isn't sure the government can count on having \$55 million for the fiscal year. Mansapit-Shimizu said GovGuam may not see EITC money until the second quarter of next

calendar year, assuming it is a reimbursement and not an advance.

"But again, it's not clear if we're going to get the full amounts early on, or if we'll get reimbursed as we go along because we don't have the implementation plan done yet," she said.

It's also possible that rather than reimburse the General Fund as GovGuam is hoping, federal dollars for EITC may be placed into a trust fund, as is anticipated for the CTC and additional child tax credit.

Because there is still uncertainty with these sources, Carlson said he did not believe it was appropriate to have any tax credit items in the fiscal 2022 budget.

The government of Guam has been paying between \$55 million and \$60 million annually from local coffers to cover EITC. But as part of the American Rescue Plan, Congress authorized another revolving reimbursement for EITC beginning in tax year 2022.



Dafne Mansapit-Shimizu



Lester Carlson



Therese Terlaje



Mary Torres

Complaint: Drunk driver caught with meth

By Nick Delgado
nick@postguam.com

A 64-year-old man was placed under arrest after police pulled him over in Tumon and found drugs in his car.

According to court documents,



The charges

Anthony Leon Guerrero Santos, 64, was charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance as a third-degree felony, driving while impaired as a misdemeanor and operating a vehicle without a valid license as a violation.

officers made the traffic stop around 11 p.m. Thursday on Pale San Vitores Road. The driver, Anthony Leon

Guerrero Santos, told police he had just come from a bar where he was drinking.

Officers noticed a cup in the center console containing a dark liquid, and Santos told them, "It's my drink," documents state. He then failed a sobriety test.

During a search, officers found a glass pipe with methamphetamine inside the car, documents state.

When officers asked why he had a driver's license that had been expired for several years, Santos allegedly said he was unable to get a new one due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Santos was charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance as a third-degree felony, driving while impaired as a misdemeanor and operating a vehicle without a valid license as a violation.

CONTRACTORS LICENSE BOARD

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GOVERNOR
JOSHUA F. TENORIO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

CECIL "BUDDY" L. ORSINI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Inetnon Malisensiyen Kontratista
 542 North Marine Corps Drive A. – Tamuning, Guam 96913
 649-2211, 649-9676, 649-2210 (Fax) Website: www.clb.guam.gov

NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

The Contractors License Board regular board meeting will be held on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Contractors License Board conference room, located at 542 North Marine Corps Drive in Upper Tumon. Note: Please adhere to the social distancing, hand sanitizing and wearing of face mask. For any special accommodations, please contact 649-2211/9676.

This is paid for by the Contractors License Board.

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) will hold a Recovery Task Force Meeting on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** in GVB's main conference room and online via Zoom.

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85642270601>
Meeting ID: 856 4227 0601

Any individuals requiring special accommodations are requested to contact GVB at 646-5278 for assistance.

This ad was paid for by the Tourist Attraction Fund.

SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION NO. 143-36 (LS)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021 • 12:00 PM

Utilizing the Guam Legislature's Hybrid meeting format for combined in person attendance in the Legislature's public hearing room, and virtual attendance utilizing the Legislature's Zoom hearing platform, on the following:

Resolution 143-36 (LS) – Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje - Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

The resolution can be found at <https://guamlegislature.com/index/36th-guam-legislature-resolutions/>.

Please contact (671) 472-3586 or senatorterlaje@guam.gov by Tuesday, August 17, to receive the Zoom link, if you wish to provide virtual testimony. Written testimony can be submitted via email or to the Office of Speaker Therese Terlaje at the Guam Congress Bldg; 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam.

The hearing will be broadcast on GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 or 112-4 and at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the session. Please email senatorterlaje@guam.gov or call 472-3586, if you require any special accommodations or further information. *This ad is paid for by Legislature funds.*



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 12:01 PM

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:P. Tim Aguon, Director
Guam Veterans Affairs Office
tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Administrator Aguon:

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje- Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

I would like to cordially invite you and representatives from all Guam Veteran organizations to attend the hearing to provide valuable feedback. I kindly ask that you forward this invitation to all Veteran Organizations on your record. Written testimony can also be submitted via email, should you not be able to attend the hearing. You can view a copy of the resolution linked above and attached to this email.

Attendance can be confirmed via email at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call (671) 472- 3586. Upon confirmation of virtual attendance, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 Hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!Si Yu'os Ma'åse',
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

CC: All Guam Veteran Organizations

Attachment: Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com
website: www.senatorterlaje.com

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2 attachments



Invitation to Public Hearing on Res. No. 143-36 (LS)_GVAO and all Guam Veteran Orgs.pdf
996K



Res. No. 143-36 (LS).pdf
3244K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

P. Tim Aguon, Director
Guam Veterans Affairs Office
tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Administrator Aguon:

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- [Resolution No. 143-36 \(LS\)](#) – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje- Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Attendance can be confirmed via email at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call (671) 472- 3586. Upon confirmation of virtual attendance, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 Hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',


Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

CC: All Guam Veteran Organizations

Attachment: Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

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please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Public Hearing on Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)- Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: Kili Sablan <kilili@mail.house.gov>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 11:37 AM

Hafa Adai Honorable Congressman Kili Camacho Sablan,

Attached to this email is an invitation from Speaker Therese M. Terlaje to attend a public hearing set for Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 12:00 p.m. on Resolution No. 143-36 (LS), which is *"Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes."*

A copy of the resolution is attached to this email for your reference.

Respectfully,
Charissa L. Manibusan
Committee Director

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture


I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.comwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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2 attachments **Invitation to Resolution No. 143-36 Public Hearing_Congressman G. Kili Sablan.pdf**
363K **Res. No. 143-36 (LS).pdf**
3244K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

August 11, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Delegate to the Northern Marianas Islands
U.S. House of Representatives
kilili@mail.house.gov

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Honorable Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan:

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje- *“Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.”*

I appreciate and support your work and continued advocacy for veterans in our region. If your schedule permits, I would like to cordially invite you to attend the hearing in person or virtually. As the Prime Sponsor of H.R. 3730, your feedback on Resolution No. 143-36 (LS) is valuable. Written testimony can also be submitted via email, should you not be able to attend.

Your attendance can be confirmed at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or (671) 472- 3586. Should you be attending virtually, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to the hearing.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Resolution No. 143-36 (LS) Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 11:17 AM

To: "San Nicolas, Michael" <michael.sannicolas@mail.house.gov>

Cc: "Winn, Jennifer" <Jennifer.Winn@mail.house.gov>, "Aien, Nelta" <Nelta.Aien@mail.house.gov>

Hafa Adai Honorable Congressman San Nicolas,

Attached to this letter is an invitation from Speaker Therese M. Terlaje to attend the hybrid public hearing on Resolution No. 143-36 (LS), *"Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes."*

A copy of the resolution is also attached for your reference. Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.

Respectfully,
Charissa L. Manibusan
Committee Director

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture


I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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2 attachments **Res No. 143-36 Public Hearing Invite_Congressman M. San Nicolas.pdf**
362K **Res. No. 143-36 (LS).pdf**
3244K



Office of the Speaker THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

August 11, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Office of Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Guam, At-Large U.S. House of Representatives
Michael.SanNicolas@mail.house.gov

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Honorable Delegate San Nicolas:

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- [Resolution No. 143-36 \(LS\)](#) -Therese M. Terlaje / Jose "Pedo" Terlaje- *Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.*

As a Sponsor of H.R. 3730, your feedback on the resolution is valuable. We cordially invite you to attend the hearing in person or virtually. Written testimony can also be submitted via email, should you not be able to attend.

Your attendance can be confirmed at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or (671) 472- 3586. Should you be attending virtually, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: Bill Cundiff [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 9:36 AM

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:William Cundiff, Retired Chief Master Sergeant
Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans
[REDACTED]@gmail.com**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Chief Master Sergeant Cundiff,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Please confirm your attendance via email at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call (671) 472- 3586. Upon confirmation of attendance, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 Hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*,

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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Invitation to Public Hearing on Res. No. 143-36 (LS)_William Cundiff.pdf

302K



Office of the Speaker THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

William Cundiff, Retired Chief Master Sergeant
Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans

██████████@gmail.com

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Chief Master Sergeant Cundiff,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Please confirm your attendance via email at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call (671) 472- 3586. Upon confirmation of attendance, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 Hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',


Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 9:38 AM

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:Joe San Agustin, Chairperson
Guam Veteran's Commission
[REDACTED]@hotmail.com**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Chairperson San Agustin,I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of / *Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

I would like to cordially invite you or your representatives to attend the hearing to provide valuable feedback. Written testimony that can be submitted via email, should you not be able to attend the hearing. You can view a copy of the resolution linked above.

Please confirm your attendance via email for in-person or virtual attendance at senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call (671) 472-3586. Should you be attending virtually, the hearing link and virtual hearing guidance will be emailed to you 48 Hours prior to the hearing. We look forward to your participation!*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*,

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.comwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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**Invitation to Public Hearing on Res. No. 143-36(LS)_Chairperson San Agustin.pdf**



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Joe San Agustin, Chairperson
Guam Veteran's Commission
[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Chairperson San Agustin,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: Joaquin Santos Jr <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 9:43 AM

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:Colonel Joaquin Santos
<[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Colonel Santos,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **[Resolution No. 143-36 \(LS\)](#)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of / *Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture*I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

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Invitation to Public Hearing on Res. No. 143-36 (LS)_Colonel Santos.pdf



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Colonel Joaquin Santos

joaquin.santosjr@yahoo.com

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Colonel Santos,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: Robert Underwood <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 10:03 AM

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:Honorable Congressman Robert Underwood
<[REDACTED]@gmail.com>**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Honorable Congressman Underwood,I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of / *Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.comwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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Invitation to Public Hearing on Res. 143-36 (LS)_Robert Underwood.pdf



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Congressman Robert Underwood

██████████@gmail.com

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Honorable Congressman Underwood,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>
To: [REDACTED]@ghs.guam.gov

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 10:05 AM

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:Major General Esther Aguigui
Adjutant General of National Guard
[REDACTED]@ghs.guam.gov**SUBJECT:** Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.*Hafa Adai* Major General Aguigui,I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of / *Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture***I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 472-3586 F: (671) 989-3590 Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.comwebsite: www.senatorterlaje.com

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Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Major General Esther Aguigui
Adjutant General of National Guard
[REDACTED]@dps.ghs.guam.gov

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai Major General Aguigui,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje, Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Area and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

1 message

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Fri, Aug 13, 2021 at 10:08 AM

To: Jesse Alig <[REDACTED]@pitiguam.com>, Angel Sablan <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>, "Mayors' Council of Guam - Admin." <[REDACTED]@teleguam.net>

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Mayor Jesse Alig, President
Mayors Council of Guam
[\[REDACTED\]@pitiguam.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@pitiguam.com)

Angel R. Sablan, Executive Director
Mayors Council of Guam
[\[REDACTED\]@hotmail.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@hotmail.com)

All Members, Mayors' Council of Guam
[\[REDACTED\]@teleguam.net](mailto:[REDACTED]@teleguam.net)

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

Hafa Adai President Alig, Executive Director Sablan, and All Members,

I will convene a Hybrid Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.** utilizing the Guam Legislature's Public Hearing room and virtual hearing platform, on the following agenda item:

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Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture***I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

36th Guam Legislature

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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**Invitation to MCOG and All Mayors_Res No. 143 PH, August 18, 2021 at 12pm.pdf**

374K



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

August 13, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Mayor Jesse Alig, President
Mayors Council of Guam
[REDACTED]@pitiguam.com

Angel R. Sablan, Executive Director
Mayors Council of Guam
[REDACTED]@hotmail.com

All Members, Mayors' Council of Guam
[REDACTED]@teleguam.net

SUBJECT: Invitation to Hybrid Public Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) on Wednesday, August 18, 2021, beginning at 12:00 p.m.

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Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Lihselaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

12:00 PM

AGENDA:

The hearing will be held in the Public Hearing Room at the Guam Congress Building, as well as utilizing the Guam Legislature's virtual meeting platform, for the following agenda items:

- **Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)** – Therese M. Terlaje / Jose “Pedo” Terlaje – “Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Lihselaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.”

The hearing will also stream online via *I Lihselaturan Guåhan's* live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

We look forward to your participation! *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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**Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Office of Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**

Date: **Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

Time: **12:00 PM**

Hybrid Pubic Hearing on Resolution 143-36 (LS) - Therese M. Terlaje, Jose "Pedo" Terlaje- "Relative to expressing the support of I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes."

	NAME	ADDRESS	CONTACT NO.	E-MAIL	Type of Testimony		Support	
					WRITTEN	ORAL	Yes	No
1	William Cundiff, Retired Chief Master Sergeant Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (IN PERSON)			cundiffb175@gmail.com		X	X	
2	Colonel Joaquin Santos (IN PERSON)			joaquin.santosjr@yahoo.com		X	X	
3	Former Congressman Robert Underwood			anacletus2010@gmail.com		X	X	
4	Joe San Agustin, Chairperson, Guam Veteran's Commission (IN PERSON)			tankaila@hotmail.com		X	X	
5	Daniel Mendiola, 1st Sergeant Retired U.S. Army, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 668 (IN PERSON)			dmendiola@teleguam.net	X	X	X	
6	Mayor Jesse Alig, President, Mayors Council of Guam (VIRTUAL)			jesse.alig@pitiguam.com		X	X	
7	P. Tim Aguon, Director, Guam Veterans Affairs Office (VIRTUAL)			tim.aguon@gvao.guam.gov		X	X	
8	Command Sgt. Martin Manglona					X	X	
9								
10								

8/16/21

Testament Letter

To: Speaker 36th. Guam Legislature

Madam Speaker, Senators, Guest and Military Veterans. I am here and In support of Resolution 143-36, To support HR 3730 Having been submitted or will be submitted by The Northern Marianas Congressman , The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan. The HR. when approved will be a landmark accomplishment to better serve US Outlying Military Veterans living in Guam and Elsewhere as applicable. To Better Serve and Deliver the Administrative and Medical Veterans Support crucial to the day to day lives of our Military Veterans and Their Families.

The Formation and or Addition of the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on the U.S. Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States will certainly be a Plus to Veterans in our region.

We have been working hard for a long time as to how we as Veterans Residing in Guam and Elsewhere can be Recognized not only as Veterans living in outlying areas, but as 1st Class Veterans living within the Subject Region specified.

I am Convinced that when HR3730 is Passed, It will open the GATEWAY TO Success to all the Veterans Benefits enjoyed by Others.

When making the selection as to who our Guam Representative to the Committee will be, I can only Hope and Pray that That Person Possesses The TRAITS of a Good Leader.

Thank You and Have a Nice Day...

Daniel T. Mendiola

1SG. Ret. US Army

President Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 668



Speaker Therese M. Terlaje <senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com>

Resolution 143-36

1 message

Benny Paulino <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
To: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com

Fri, Aug 20, 2021 at 10:14 AM

Hafa Adai Madam Speaker,

Ben Paulino here.

I wish to convey my favorable support to subject resolution relative to advocate for the passage of H.R. 3730 which seeks to amend Title 38, U.S. Code, to establish in the Dept of Veterans Affairs on Advisory Committe on U.S. Outlying areas and Freely Associated States, and other purposes.

I apologize. I was not able to attend the hearing. I wish you all the best.

Benny Paulino
US Army Retired

🌟ARMY STRONG🌟

August 17, 2021

**Testimony to the 36th Guam Legislature
Resolution 143-36 (LS)
Passage of H.R. 3730**

My name is Charles “Chuck” Tanner and my purpose here today is to provide testimony in support of Resolution 143-36. I am a Veteran and have worked on various issues affecting veterans during my 20 years on Guam. One issue that continues to frustrate me is the access to earned benefits by my brother veterans in the COFA nations.

I fully support the passage of this resolution and ultimately HR3730 and congratulate Speaker Terlaje and Senator Terlaje on putting pen to paper to address the issue.

I will defer to my Veteran colleagues that may be wiser on the current status of accessing Veteran benefits, but will offer my perception of the disparity I see.

This is not the first attempt at providing for an equitable solution. Back in March of 2017, the Hawaii Legislature put forth a House resolution for its Congressional delegation to work with the VA to develop a program or pass legislation to provide veterans of COFA nation’s access to medical care. In April of 2019 the COFA Veterans Review Act [All Info - S.1222 - 116th Congress \(2019-2020\): COFA Veterans Review Act of 2019 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#) was introduced in both the U.S. Senate and House. This legislation required Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide hospital care and medical services to veterans in the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, and to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of establishing regional offices, sub-offices, contact units, or other subordinate offices of the Department of Veterans Affairs in the Freely Associated States to provide such care and services, and for other purposes.

From my vantage point, these efforts had little impact and the COFA Veteran Review Act probably died in Committee as I could not find further action on the Bill. History shows there were other actions but these two are samples of attempts to come to resolution.

The recent inclusion of citizens of the COFA nations into the MEDICAID program does offer some promise and insight into the attitude of the nation's political structure to address COFA concerns. It seems there could now be a willingness to address issues surrounding the Veterans in the COFA nations also.

HR3730 is a baby step and is not a magic wand. I believe that other efforts may have been "a bridge to far" and though HR3730 seems a small step, it at least gives a voice for the concerns at "the big table". I am optimistic this bill can pass.

But why wait?

We can take action now.

The Veteran Commission can reach out and include a portion of their current meeting to collaborate with Veteran groups that exist in the COFA nations. A ZOOM conference can be set up and work can start now.

The information from these meetings can be reported to the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and where local action can occur, then move forward. If Federal action is needed, then the voice is stronger.

This effort can then grow from an agenda item on the Guam Veteran Commission to a stand-alone meeting in which you invite Veteran Administration officials. We can start by getting an idea of how many Veterans are out here in the forgotten Pacific. We can capture the personal stories of service to the country, we can start putting faces to the issues.

In this way, HR3730 will get teeth. If passed, then the proposed committee is off to a running start. If it dies in committee, then the effort continues and builds.

In closing, I believe that we need to stop waiting on bills that never go and actions that at best get lip service. It is time to show the VA we are in this for the long haul and are ready to go. It is time to plant our flag and rally our veterans. It is time to take care of our brothers and sisters.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to support this resolution and congratulate you on your effort and interest. I have attached the information I referred to on the written copy of this testimony.

Chuck Tanner
Major, US Army, Retired
MHA, M.Ed., FACHE

[REDACTED]

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION

March 10, 2017

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO WORK WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO DEVELOP A PROGRAM OR PASS LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS FROM COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION NATIONS WITH ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY MEDICAL CARE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, the United States government entered into a Compact of Free Association (COFA) agreement with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, citizens of COFA nations are eligible to enlist in the United States armed services, and over the years, the United States has vigorously

recruited Pacific Islanders from COFA nations to serve in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Pacific Islanders from COFA nations have a long and distinguished history of military service stretching back to World War II; and

WHEREAS, upon completing their military service and returning to their respective communities, veterans from COFA nations are unable to secure Department of Veterans Affairs services, especially Department-approved basic medical services, which are non-existent in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, veterans from COFA nations must fly to Hawaii, at enormous cost to their personal financial well-being, to obtain proper medical care at Tripler Army Medical Center; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the Senate concurring, that Hawaii's Congressional delegation is urged to work closely with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a program or pass legislation to provide veterans from Compact of Free Association nations with access to high-quality medical care within their respective communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, and the Director of the Office of Veterans' Services.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3730

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2021

Mr. SABLAN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. PLASKETT, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. KAHELE, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVI-**
4 **SORY COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES OUT-**
5 **LYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED**
6 **STATES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5
2 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 548. Advisory Committee on United States Out-**
5 **lying Areas and Freely Associated States**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
7 lish an advisory committee, to be known as the ‘Advisory
8 Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely
9 Associated States’, to provide advice and guidance to the
10 Secretary on matters relating to covered veterans.

11 “(b) DUTIES.—The duties of the Committee shall be
12 the following:

13 “(1) To advise the Secretary on matters relat-
14 ing to covered veterans, including how the Secretary
15 can improve the programs and services of the De-
16 partment to better serve such veterans.

17 “(2) To identify for the Secretary evolving
18 issues of relevance to covered veterans.

19 “(3) To propose clarifications, recommenda-
20 tions, and solutions to address issues raised by cov-
21 ered veterans.

22 “(4) To provide a forum for covered veterans,
23 veterans service organizations serving covered vet-
24 erans, and the Department to discuss issues and

1 proposals for changes to regulations, policies, and
2 procedures of the Department.

3 “(5) To identify priorities for and provide ad-
4 vice to the Secretary on appropriate strategies for
5 consultation with veterans service organizations serv-
6 ing covered veterans.

7 “(6) To encourage the Secretary to work with
8 other departments and agencies of the Federal Gov-
9 ernment and Congress to ensure covered veterans
10 are provided the full benefits of their status as cov-
11 ered veterans.

12 “(7) To highlight contributions of covered vet-
13 erans in the Armed Forces.

14 “(8) To conduct other duties as determined ap-
15 propriate by the Secretary.

16 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—(1) The Committee shall be
17 comprised of 15 voting members appointed by the Sec-
18 retary.

19 “(2) In appointing members pursuant to paragraph
20 (1), the Secretary shall ensure the following:

21 “(A) At least one member is appointed to rep-
22 resent covered veterans in each of the following
23 areas:

24 “(i) American Samoa.

25 “(ii) Guam.

1 “(iii) Puerto Rico.

2 “(iv) The Commonwealth of the Northern
3 Mariana Islands.

4 “(v) The Virgin Islands of the United
5 States.

6 “(vi) The Federated States of Micronesia.

7 “(vii) The Republic of the Marshall Is-
8 lands.

9 “(viii) The Republic of Palau.

10 “(B) Not fewer than half of the members ap-
11 pointed are covered veterans, unless the Secretary
12 determines that an insufficient number of qualified
13 covered veterans are available.

14 “(C) Each member appointed resides in an area
15 specified in subparagraph (A).

16 “(3) In appointing members pursuant to paragraph
17 (1), the Secretary may consult with any Member of Con-
18 gress who represents an area specified in paragraph
19 (2)(A).

20 “(d) TERMS; VACANCIES.—(1) A member of the
21 Committee shall be appointed for a term of two years.

22 “(2) Not later than 180 days after receiving notice
23 of a vacancy in the Committee, the Secretary shall fill the
24 vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment.

1 “(e) MEETING FORMAT AND FREQUENCY.—(1) Ex-
2 cept as provided in paragraph (2), the Committee shall
3 meet in-person with the Secretary not less frequently than
4 twice each year and hold monthly conference calls as nec-
5 essary.

6 “(2) Meetings held under paragraph (1) may be con-
7 ducted virtually during a public health emergency declared
8 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant
9 to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
10 247d) or any renewal of such declaration.

11 “(f) ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION.—(1) Rep-
12 resentatives of relevant departments and agencies of the
13 Federal Government may attend meetings of the Com-
14 mittee and provide information to the Committee.

15 “(2) One representative of the Department shall at-
16 tend each meeting of the Committee.

17 “(3) Representatives attending meetings under this
18 subsection—

19 “(A) shall not be considered voting members of
20 the Committee; and

21 “(B) may not receive additional compensation
22 for services performed with respect to the Com-
23 mittee.

24 “(g) SUBCOMMITTEES.—(1) The Committee may es-
25 tablish subcommittees.

1 “(2) The Secretary may, in consultation with the
2 Committee, appoint a member to a subcommittee estab-
3 lished under paragraph (1) who is not a member of the
4 Committee.

5 “(3) A subcommittee established under paragraph (1)
6 may enhance the function of the Committee, but may not
7 supersede the authority of the Committee or provide direct
8 advice or work products to the Secretary.

9 “(h) REPORTS.—(1) Not less frequently than once
10 each year, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary
11 and the appropriate committees of Congress a report con-
12 taining such recommendations as the Committee may have
13 for legislative or administrative action.

14 “(2) Not later than 90 days after the date on which
15 the Secretary receives a report under paragraph (1), the
16 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of
17 Congress a written response to the report after—

18 “(A) giving the Committee an opportunity to
19 review such written response; and

20 “(B) including in such written response any
21 comments the Committee considers appropriate.

22 “(3) Not less frequently than once every two years,
23 the Committee shall submit to the Secretary and the ap-
24 propriate committees of Congress a report describing the
25 activities of the Committee during the previous two years.

1 “(4) The Secretary shall make publicly available on
2 an internet website of the Department—

3 “(A) each report the Secretary receives under
4 paragraph (1);

5 “(B) each written response the Secretary sub-
6 mits under paragraph (2); and

7 “(C) each report the Secretary receives under
8 paragraph (3).

9 “(i) COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MATTERS.—A member
10 of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
11 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized
12 for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chap-
13 ter 57 of title 5 while away from the home or regular place
14 of business of the member in the performance of the duties
15 of the Committee.

16 “(j) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
17 the Secretary shall consult with veterans service organiza-
18 tions serving covered veterans.

19 “(k) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT EXEMP-
20 TION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act
21 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Committee.

22 “(l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
24 gress’ means—

1 “(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
2 of the House of Representatives; and

3 “(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
4 of the Senate.

5 “(2) The term ‘Committee’ means the Advisory
6 Committee on United States Outlying Areas and
7 Freely Associated States established under sub-
8 section (a).

9 “(3) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-
10 eran residing in an area specified in subsection
11 (c)(2)(A).

12 “(4) The term ‘veterans service organization
13 serving covered veterans’ means any organization
14 that—

15 “(A) serves the interests of covered vet-
16 erans;

17 “(B) has covered veterans in substantive
18 and policymaking positions within the organiza-
19 tion; and

20 “(C) has demonstrated experience working
21 with covered veterans.”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
23 tions at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is
24 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
25 tion 547 the following new item:

“548. Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States”.

1 (b) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later
2 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
3 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish the advisory
4 committee required by section 548 of title 38, United
5 States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1) of this section.

6 (c) DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.—Not
7 later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary
8 establishes the advisory committee required by such section
9 548, the Secretary shall appoint the members of such
10 advisory committee.

11 (d) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 120 days
12 after the date on which the Secretary establishes the advisory
13 committee required by such section 548, such advisory
14 committee shall hold its first meeting.

○

Guard is losing an incredibly influential proponent, we can at least find comfort knowing that he will continue to serve the State and the maintenance of its essential infrastructure in the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Having risen through the ranks from Second Lieutenant in 1989, all the way to Colonel in just 18 years, Colonel Lukowski's impressive line of service to Connecticut has been displayed by his rapid rate of promotion and further by his list of numerous accolades. To that end, I ask my colleagues in the House join me in honoring and thanking Colonel Jerry Lukowski for his extensive history of service and wishing him and his family all the best in this new chapter of their lives.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL PROTECTIVE SERVICE

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) in recognition of their service to our Nation. After passing the Capitol security bill in this chamber earlier this week, it is only natural that we highlight the work of our protection agencies and their commitment to the Federal workforce. As a former law enforcement officer, I understand the pivotal role of security today more than ever. Following the U.S. Capitol attacks on January 6, we witnessed firsthand how important it is to have law enforcement agencies like FPS to protect our federal facilities and workforce.

For half a century, FPS has served and protected the American people and government business with honor, integrity, and commitment. Since its inception in 1971, FPS has contributed to the protection of people and property in the Federal Government by identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities through risk assessments, law enforcement, intelligence analysis, and security measures. Two major acts of terror against the United States have shaped FPS to anticipate emerging threats more effectively: the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995, and the terror attacks on September 11. Today, FPS provides the Department of Homeland Security Secretary with a highly trained, nationwide force that can support needs in countering emerging or existing threats and terrorism, within the boundaries of our Nation and territories. It is also responsible for protecting over 9,000 facilities and more than 1.4 million people who work, visit, or conduct business at these facilities each day.

FPS has shown that it is a leader within the law enforcement and protection community. It is their work and dedication that brings us closer to the vision of a Federal workforce and workplace that is safe, secure, and resilient moving forward.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing one of our nation's most critical federal agencies.

VA ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE U.S. OUTLYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, military veterans living in the U.S. Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States do not have the same access to services as veterans elsewhere in our Nation. They face numerous obstacles accessing the benefits to which they are due. They cannot reach all the services that should be available to them. We must fix this inequality.

As a first step, today I am introducing legislation to create the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on the U.S. Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States. The new advisory committee would be composed of veterans from the U.S. Outlying Areas—the Northern Mariana Islands, which I represent, American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico—and from the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The committee, a part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will be responsible for assessing benefit availability and service accessibility in these U.S. Outlying areas and Freely associated States and for advising the Secretary on how any deficits can be addressed.

As an example of these inequities, the Northern Marianas, my district, is the only U.S. jurisdiction without a VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). The nearest full-service VA medical facility is in Hawaii, which can be over a 15-hour journey by plane. The Northern Marianas is also the only U.S. area without a Vet Center. Guam Vet Center staff travel to the island of Saipan in the Marianas to provide services, but visits are infrequent and limited to a few hours. Veterans on the islands of Tinian and Rota must travel to Saipan or Guam to receive in-person services. The Marianas is also the only U.S. jurisdiction without a Veteran Benefits office. Guam VA Benefits Office staff travel to Saipan to meet with Marianas veterans and their families, but again those visits are infrequent and limited to a few hours.

The advisory committee my legislation sets up will detail issues, like these that Marianas veterans face, and concerns raised by veterans resident in the other U.S. outlying areas and freely associated states. And the committee will recommend to the Secretary how these issues should be addressed.

It is also my intention that the committee's existence within the Department will encourage VA leadership and staff to consider island area veterans from the outset, when developing new programs or initiatives, to put an end to this pattern of inequity.

Providing equitable support to veterans in the outlying areas and freely associated states is an obligation long overdue. These veterans have fought in the same conflicts and suffered the same physical, mental, and spiritual wounds of service as veterans residing everywhere else in America.

The legislation I am introducing today will give these veterans a voice within the Depart-

ment to advocate for equal treatment. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF JANYCE COLLIER

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Janyce Collier for her work as the Director of the Franklin County Career and Technology Center Practical Nursing Program.

For the past 14 years, Janyce has selflessly served the people of Franklin County by ensuring quality education for the nurses and technicians that staff our hospitals and treat our patients. Her extensive career experience includes her dedicated work as a medical surgical nurse, time spent treating patients in the Intensive Care Unit, as well as work with home health care.

Before coming to Franklin County, Janyce Collier served our nation with the United States Army Nurse Corp from 1980 to 1995. During her service, she was deployed to Nurnberg, Germany, and later served with the Army Reserves in the 99th Combat Support Hospital located in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Previously, Janyce received her pre-clinical nursing accreditation at California State University-Sacramento, and then earned her BSN in Nursing from the University of Portland. She furthered her education with a master's degree from the Oklahoma City University, and a MSN in Nursing Education from Saint Joseph's College of Maine, as well as a Vocational II Certificate from Penn State.

Janyce Collier's dedication to teaching the next generation of nurses is truly remarkable. I am incredibly grateful for her service to our Nation and to our community. On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I thank her for her years of service and wish her every continued success as she begins a new chapter.

REMEMBERING BELOVED BASKING RIDGE, NJ CROSSING GUARD

HON. TOM MALINOWSKI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. MALINOWSKI. Madam Speaker, Carolyn Maaitis was a beloved crossing guard from Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Carolyn passed away on May 17, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Carolyn was a cherished member of her community, who spent the last 28 years ensuring the safety of Basking Ridge children as a crossing guard near the Liberty Corner School. Along with her husband, George, Carolyn was a source of love and support to the students and families who knew her.

Carolyn prepared goody bags full of snacks and stickers on holidays, gave cards and small gifts on birthdays, and always had treats on hand for the neighborhood dogs. She never forgot to ask how a sick family member was doing and continually kept up to date with those around her.



Office of the Speaker

TERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature

AUTHOR'S REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 143-36 (LS) was introduced on August 6, 2021, by Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, and Senator Jose 'Pedo' Terlaje, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Author, on August 10, 2021. The Author convened a hybrid public hearing on August 18, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building and utilizing the Guam Legislature's virtual hearing platform.

Public Notice Requirements

Notices for this Hybrid Public Hearing were sent out via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on August 11, 2021(5 -Day Notice) and again on August 16, 2021(48 Hour Notice). The notice was also published in the Guam Daily Post on August 11, 2021, and August 16, 2021.

Senators Present

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje, Chairperson
Senator Jose 'Pedo' Terlaje, Co-Sponsor & Committee Member
Senator Sabina F. Perez, Vice Chairperson
Senator Telo T. Taitague, Committee Member
Senator Joanne M. Brown, Committee Member

Appearing before the Committee

Former Congressman Robert Underwood
Retired Chief Master Sergeant William Cundiff, Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans
Retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Joaquin "Danny" Santos
Joe San Agustin, Chairperson, Guam Veteran's Commission
Retired U.S. Army 1st Sergeant Daniel Mendiola, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 668
Mayor Jesse Alig, President, Mayors Council of Guam
P. Tim Aguon, Director, Guam Veterans Affairs Office
Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Martin Mendiola

Written Testimony Submitted

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Joaquin "Danny" Santos

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**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators, please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*

Retired U.S. Army Major Chuck Tanner
Retired U.S. Army Major General Benny Paulino

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY & DISCUSSION

The Hybrid Public Hearing was Called-to-Order at 12:03 p.m.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Håfa Adai. Welcome everyone and thank you for being here. The public hearing for Resolution number 143-36 (LS) is now called to order. Today is Wednesday, August 18 and the time is about 12:03 PM. Notices for this public hearing were disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Wednesday, August 11th, again on Monday, August 16th and the notice was published in the Guam Daily Post on August 11 and August 16th, 2021. These are all in conformance with the Open Government Law. We only have one agenda item today, and that is resolution number 143-36 (LS). It's introduced by myself, Therese M. Terlaje and Jose 'Pedo' Terlaje, relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues who are in attendance, beginning with the co-sponsor Senator Pedo Terlaje, who is also the oversight Chair for Veterans Affairs here in the Guam legislature, my committee Co-chair Senator Sabina Perez, and Senator Telo Taitague. *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Senators. This is a hybrid hearing, so we have people in person, and we also have some virtual via zoom. I'm just going to do a very brief introduction of the resolution as is customary before we accept testimony.

So, our resolution here in the legislature is to officially support H. R. 3730, which was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 4th, 2021, by the Honorable Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan of the CNMI. The bill is co-sponsored by 10 more delegates, including Guam's Delegate, Michael F. Q. San Nicolas. H. R. 3730 seeks to establish within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee in United States outlying areas and freely associated states. The Advisory Committee will be composed of 15 voting members appointed to represent covered veterans in eight remote areas of the world, including the CNMI and Guam. We looked at and there are currently 26 administratively active Advisory Committees within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Some of them include the Advisory

Committee on Disability Compensation, Veterans Advisory Committee on Education, on Homeless Veterans, Veterans' Family, Caregiver, and Survivor Advisory Committee. There's also one on minorities and we are honored to have a member of that advisory committee in our presence today.

We will talk a little bit about that later. H. R. 3730 outlines the duties of representative members of the advisory committee on United States outlying areas and freely associated states. These duties would include advising the secretary on matters related to covered veterans, including how the secretary can improve the programs and services of the department to better serve such veterans to identify for the secretary evolving issues of relevance to covered veterans, to propose clarifications, recommendations, and solutions to address issues raised by these covered veterans to provide a forum for coverage that are in service organizations, serving these covered veterans and the department, to discuss issues and proposals for changes to regulations, policies, and procedures of the department, to identify priorities for and provide advice to the secretary on appropriate strategies for consultation with veteran's service organizations, serving covered veterans, to encourage the secretary to work with other departments and agencies of the federal government and Congress to ensure covered veterans are provided the full benefits of their status as covered veterans, to highlight contributions of the covered veterans and the armed forces and to conduct other duties as determined appropriate by the secretary.

For years, Guam's veterans have vocalized their concerns over the level of care they have received through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and I've heard the experiences these veterans have had from their medical claims processing, a shortage of access to specialized treatment facilities, understaffing at outpatient clinics, and many, many other issues. These problems have left our veterans with exacerbated medical issues, increased financial burdens and feelings of frustration on many occasions, and I think we all agree that they should not be subjected to this disparate treatment especially because of the sacrifices that they have given in order to serve the country.

So, I want to support the Congressman's efforts and all of the co-sponsors of this house bill and together with my colleagues, on behalf of the people of Guam, show that the people of Guam are very much interested in this and fully in support. With that being said, I'd like to now open it up for testimony, and I'm going to begin with our former Congressman himself, Robert Underwood

Former Congressman Robert Underwood: Thank you very much Madam Speaker and distinguished members of the committee of the 36th Guam Legislature. I'm sort of embarrassed to go first because I'm the only non-veteran here. I want to, first of all, pay my honor and respect to all of these gentlemen who are here this afternoon. Of course, I know all of them personally and they are a very distinguished group. It's an honor to be able to support this resolution. I want to express my strongest support for this resolution, which simultaneously does three important things. One, it provides support for H. R. 3730, which is legislation in the U. S. House of Representatives to establish an advisory council for veterans in the Pacific territories and the freely associated states. Two, it recognizes the growing number of veterans in the Pacific islands in this part of the world, not only their numbers, but their sacrifice and their need for on the ground services. Three, it provides evidence again, of the importance of veterans in our lives, our economy, our society, and our government. The best way to provide continuing evidence of the vital role that Pacific Island veterans play is to establish this advisory council. This will not just be a sounding board to express the need for services to the federal government. It is a board to broadcast the significance of Pacific Islander veterans.

There are very few places like Guam where nearly every single family is touched by a veteran. Even though I didn't serve, I have three brothers, one sister, and one son who did. My wife Nerissa has one brother and one son who continued to serve. The significance of this is hard to overstate. Never have so many people served and so many have been ignored in terms of needed services. Veterans do not need more accolades or praises, or ceremonies or resolutions. Veterans need what they deserve, and they deserve medical treatment and benefits which meet their needs, and which are no less than those provided by the same services provided to other veterans. It is in this spirit that this resolution is important. I hope that no one feels that just voting for this will suffice. We must support the legislation, track it in Congress and when it comes into existence, we should help find the right people to serve in this capacity, the brotherhood and sisterhood of veterans in the Pacific and will be expanded and will be a benefit to generations of veterans who are yet to be born.

I want to thank Congressman Kilili Sablan of the Northern Marianas for leading this charge. I want to acknowledge the support of Congressman San Nicolas in signing on to be a co-sponsor. I also want to acknowledge all the veterans who are here today, and they each have important leadership positions in their own way. I'll take advantage of the opportunity to acknowledge Bill Cundiff and Danny Santos who are helping me with the Vietnam project, Veteran Vietnam and of course the Chair right

here of the Vietnam Veterans of America here in Guam and we'll continue to provide and support this kind of leadership of our island and indeed of all the islands to need to ensure its equitable. *Biba Veteranu! Biba Isla!*

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Biba!* We will now ask Mr. Bill Cundiff, Retired Chief Master Sergeant, who is a member of the Advisory Committee of Minority Veterans to the Veterans Affairs.

Retired Chief Master Sergeant William Cundiff, Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans: Good afternoon and thank you for having us here today. I feel this is a very important occasion. I want to thank Congressman Kilili for having the foresight for caring and doing something like this, which allows us to gather as a group on this side of the globe to express our issues and perhaps resolve those issues at the veteran's level. He gave us, by doing this bill, a real seat at the table. We do a lot of things at this lower level, but this is the real seat where we can express our issues, and it's going to be at the VA building in Washington, DC.

I want to also thank former Congressman Robert Underwood. Truthfully, he's the one that broached this idea to Congress Kilili, and he understands, he cares. So, he pushed it and here we are today. I want to thank you so much for always caring for our veterans. You are a real good friend with our veterans. When asked to do this resolution you didn't blink an eye and I really appreciate that.

Senator Pedo, thank you for always supporting our vets too. I appreciate it. I firmly believe that when this Resolution becomes a law, it will mirror the board I'm on in DC and what we do up there. There's 12 of us from around the country that sit and discuss minority veterans' issues. I'm currently the vice chairman of the cemetery administration of that group. So, I am overlooking that for now. So, we get together, and we design some questions. We design some issues. We get together with a group and the ones that's completed; we will give it to our chairman. They review it and then they give it to the VA secretary and give it to Congress. Congress reviews and questions or Congress reviews and recommends and comes back and says, it is approved.

A lot of these things are quite bureaucratic, I found out. But if you have a strong issue and pound the table, they will listen to you and be on the table. This is the first time Guam has ever represented on that board. I think it's a good thing and we will be

represented. We have this board, if it's approved, it is also a very educational process because all the experts from all the different departments come and brief us.

So, we thoroughly understand what the VA is trying to do for us and then we can think about issues that are not being done for us. And so, I presented such issues for Guam and we hope those issues are approved. Give us also the opportunity to work with other 15 members of this side of the globe to flush out issues that we're being confronted with and come together as a group with one voice to write our proposals and give it to the secretary. It gives us the opportunity once a year, at least, because we meet in DC once a year, then we go somewhere once a year. It gives us the opportunity to visit a VA hospital and last time we visited Florida to look at their programs, to look at the good things they are doing, take the good things they're doing, and hopefully we can implement it in our states or territories.

Once this committee is formed and approved by Congress, the Secretary of the VA has 180 days to set up the council. Once you set up the council, he has 90 days to recommend and request for membership. All the members must submit their resume and three recommendations to the Secretary's board. After they select the 15 members, the secretary has 120 days to conduct the first meeting in DC. So, this is one of the best things that has ever happened. It's better than sliced bread, I think. It would give us the opportunity to be heard finally in this part of the world. Thank you.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you. I think we're very lucky to have you here to share your experience on an actual advisory committee to the VA, to the potential of an additional committee that Guam can be represented on. *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* We can now hear from Colonel Danny Santos.

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel Joaquin "Danny" Santos: Good afternoon. My name is Joaquin Santos Jr. I am a Vietnam war veteran, a retired U.S. Marine Corps and resident of Guam. I am here to unconditionally support Resolution 143-36 (LS) expressing *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* support for the passage of H. R. 3730. The Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee must be inclusive in addressing the needs of all veterans who honorably served in the armed forces of the United States of America in defense of the national interests. This advisory committee must include the freely associated states as part of the 15 voting members to represent veteran's issues and needs. Every island in the Pacific, who has a U. S. veteran resident addresses their needs and solutions without the benefit of full support of our government. This issue has been identified and discussed for so long, but

nothing has been done to resolve it until now. As specified in H. R. 3730, the duties of the advisory committee are to address veterans, which include improvement of programs and services, addressing issues and recommending solutions for changes to regulations and policies, to identify priorities that affect veterans and to ensure all departments and agencies of the federal government provide the full benefit for covered veterans. This advisory committee will be the voice of many veterans' issues from Pacific Island veterans to adjust the full benefit of covered veterans who willingly and honorably serve in all branches of the U.S Armed Forces. Thank you.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you Colonel Santos. We will now hear from Mr. Joe San Agustin, Chairperson of the Guam Veterans Commission.

Chairperson Joe San Agustin, Guam Veteran's Commission: Madam Speaker, Senators, good afternoon. Before I go any further, I would like to thank you, Dr. Underwood, for being not a veteran, but being here in support of this H. R. and has always been a very supportive individual for our people of Guam and especially our veterans. I would like to thank all the leadership that's present here today for their continuing efforts to find ways to support our veterans and their families.

Madam Speaker and Senators, I am Joe San Agustin, Chairman for the Guam Veterans Commission, and the President for the Guam Chapter 3rd Marine Division Association here in Guam. I am here to testify in support of Resolution 143-36 (LS), Advocating the passage of H. R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee on United States outlying areas and the free-associated states. I applaud the great efforts and leadership of Congressman Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan CNMI Delegate for spearheading such a long overdue initiative to better serve our veterans and their families. As our veterans remain proud and loyal to God and country, many suffer through the absence of better veteran services that they solely deserve.

Like other jurisdictions who protest and fight for what they believe is deserving for their veterans and families, we too can no longer be silent. I am hopeful that the makeup of this advisory committee will be members that understand the challenges and will listen to veterans' concerns and advocate for their needs within their respective roles. Madam Speaker and Senators, I thank you very much for the invite for me to be present here this afternoon to testify. That's all I have, *Si Yu'os ma'åse*.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* I want to recognize Senator Joanne Brown. *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Senator for joining us today. We'll now hear from Mr. Daniel Mendiola First Sergeant Retired U.S. Army, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 688.

Retired U.S. Army 1st Sergeant Daniel Mendiola, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 668: Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, Congressmen, Senators, guests, and military veterans. I am here in support of Resolution 143-36 (LS) to further support H.R. 3730 having been submitted or will be submitted by the Northern Marianas Congressman, the Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan. The H.R. when approved will be a landmark accomplishment to better serve U.S. outlying military veterans living in Guam and elsewhere as applicable. To better serve and deliver the administrative and medical veterans support crucial to the day to day lives of our military veterans and their families. The formation and or addition of the veteran's affairs advisory committee on the U.S. outlying areas and freely associated states will certainly be a plus to veterans in our region. We have been working hard for a long time as to how we as veterans residing in Guam and elsewhere can be recognized not only as veterans living in outlying areas, but as first-class veterans living within the subject regions specified.

This is not in the text I wrote, but we have been hearing a lot of comments about being a second-class veteran here in Guam and they cannot hear us. I think this is the chance of a lifetime that we must step forward and support the resolution as well as the H.R. I am convinced that when H.R. 3730 is passed, it will open the gateway to success to all the veteran's benefits enjoyed by others elsewhere. I have an addition, if successful, I can foresee the committee to function to the extreme and our voice will be heard and the question from other veterans and groups like, "when can we have a veteran's hospital in Guam?" may not be as fruitless or mirror questions anymore. We must support this committee from top to bottom.

We need to make sure that we formulate and appoint the right person to represent us. One of the nine, and we're out of the 15 that's required, but that person who has spearheaded our needs and we'll put us on the map. Maybe in the future, Guam can be the hub for medical services in this area in the Northern Marianas in Guam, maybe the hospital. This is the time to force forward to get a hospital here and maybe even break away from Honolulu as a region, but along comes the hard things that go with it. The fiduciary duties and responsibility to manage the money that comes into this institution once we have needs to be taken care of. We need to show

the people that we can handle our money and I think only then will we be very successful. They'll probably be more into listening to us, but we need to support the committee representative.

I'm going to add one more and that is being experienced with all the veteran's associations here in Guam. We need to channel the complaints so that we will not obscure the point that's being brought forward to the representative. In other words, if we could cut down the one-to-one and you Senators have seen that they have bothered you for almost everything, even things that you don't think you should be bothered by our residents here in Guam, by our veterans. But maybe as veterans, president, and chairman, we can pass that on to our people and say, "Hey, channel the complaints through the proper authorities." All these guys right here that are sitting here are capable, more than capable in handling problems. I think in due time they could, they should be channeled through them so that we have almost one voice going out to the representative of the community and not confuse the issue. So that will be an education on our part, I guess and everybody else. When making selection as to who our Guam representative is going to be to the committee, it will be, and I can only hope and pray that person possesses the true traits of a good leader. Some of the traits of a good leader is responsibility, being transparent and getting the job done the way it is supposed to be done. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Senators, and have a nice day.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you very much. We're now going to go to our virtual participants beginning with the Honorable Mayor Jesse Alig, President of the Mayor's Council of Guam

Mayor Jesse Alig, President, Mayors Council of Guam: *Håfa Adai*, good morning. Thank you, Speaker. I am Jesse Alig, President of the Mayor's Council of Guam, and Mayor of the beautiful village of Piti. I submit this testimony in support of Resolution 143-36 (LS). Guam has long been the bastion of proud Americans and CHamorus who have been drafted or volunteered to serve in all the different branches of the United States military and we continue to have many of our young sons and daughters join this noble profession of arms and sacrificed so much so that we can live free. The military is also an honorable profession, and while we always honor and remember our veterans every November 11th, it is sad to say that in many cases, every other day it's just a regular day when it comes to the services and benefits given to our veterans by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. It is especially a proper description of the way our veterans in the United States outlying areas and freely associated states are

treated and responded to and why we should, in this day and age, see homeless veterans, jobless veterans, helpless veterans, and hopeless veterans. We cannot and must not accept that this is the norm. Every day should be November 11 for them. Every day, honor and attention should be given to them. Every day, we must demand the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to give our veterans what they need and what they deserve. I am reminded of a Memorial quote, "All gave some, some gave all." I dare to say that perhaps a quote for veterans, they should be "All get some, some get all." More than likely, if you are a veteran living in the contiguous United States, some get all the benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but if you are a veteran living in one of the most patriotic parts of the United States, like Guam, all too often, all against some of the benefits only.

Resolution 143-36 (LS) makes it loud and clear that we want our veterans to get all. We need a seat at that table that H.R. 3730 proposes to do. By establishing in the Department of Veterans Affairs an advisory committee on the United States, outlying areas of freely associated states, which comprises 15 voting members. One of them being Guam, we need a voice, and this is our opportunity to have our voice heard. We have to return honor back to our veterans. We want our veterans to have homes, veterans to have jobs, veterans to have good healthcare, veterans to have a bright future. We need to support H.R. 3,730 and Resolution 143-36 (LS). This is the least we can do to repay our veterans for all their sacrifices so that we live free. As president of the mayor's council of Guam and without any doubt, I can also state that all my colleagues fully support this effort. So, thank you Speaker Terlaje and Senator Terlaje for introducing this Resolution and giving our veterans a voice. *Si Yu'os ma'åse*.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Mayor Alig. I am very honored that you are with us today and for your support on this resolution. We will now hear from P. Tim Aguon, Director of Guam Veterans' Affairs office.

Director P. Tim Aguon, Guam Veterans Affairs Office: Good afternoon, Speaker Terlaje, Senators and our oversight of the chair, Senator Pedro Terlaje. I'd like to thank you for introducing this resolution. I also want to thank my colleagues and my fellow veterans, Colonel Santos, Chief Cundiff, Chairman San Agustin, First Sergeant Mendiola, and former Congressman Robert Underwood for their support and their testimony today. I sit here in support on behalf of the Leon Guerrero and Tenorio administration and as Director of the veterans' affairs of Guam, the state office in support of this Resolution 143-36 (LS), which advocates for the passage of H.R. 3730. I have to say more importantly that as a grandson of a veteran that died in World War

II, as a son of a veteran, a veteran of 31 years myself and a father of three veterans currently serving in the United States military.

I support this wholeheartedly and more importantly, it's long overdue for decades. The veterans of Guam have not shied away from volunteering to go into combat for the United States president and for this country. We'd have not complained. We went out there, did our duty to protect our country and our island and now we get a seat at the table. Hopefully, this will get us that voice that we are long overdue needed at the Nation's Capital.

We have been bottlenecked, we have been skirted around and given seconds at the table. This will give us the opportunity to have direct communication, that direct contact with the decision makers up in Washington, those that can decide our fate of our veterans now and the future so that we can get what is fully deserved. I salute all of you that are here today in support, and I ask, and I call out all the veterans in Guam, in Micronesia to support this legislation and resolution so we can get what we deserve. We have served so we deserve the benefits that are long overdue for all the veterans that have served and the families that have made the sacrifices for those that have paid the ultimate price. Thank you, Mrs. Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to provide my testimony and I salute all of you today.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* I would like to acknowledge the presence today of a Command Sergeant Major Martin Mangloña. He is a distinguished service cross recipient from Guam. We're very honored that you are here. If you'd like to present testimony, please do.

Retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major Martin Mangloña: Good morning, Chairwoman and all the Senators that are present this morning. I must apologize because sometimes my health is not that good. I had a stroke, so bear with me but I'm here as a private citizen and I really want to give thanks to Congressman Kilili. I met him a couple of months ago when I went to Saipan. The main thing is this resolution has a dual purpose. One is on a regular channel and from the committee and the main problem here in Guam right now is if they could get the phone system installed here in Guam. Right now, if a veteran has a problem, when they call it they have to go to Hawaii and it's a technical problem that they could transfer from Hawaii to local, to Guam. All we need is good tech to do that. The second problem is the pharmacy. When a veteran asks for medication, they must go to Hawaii to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. We'll have a satellite up at the new

hospital. It's a matter of just giving them the space up there and the third problem in Guam is the prosthetic equipment. If a veteran needs prosthetic equipment, they must go to Hawaii. All we need is a contractor here. Like right now, if a veteran needs a lab, we used to send it to Hawaii. Now we have a contract with DLS here in Guam. So, all this problem is minor. It could be taken care of here in Guam because right now we just have six doctors in Guam. Two of the doctors are off island by June. So, anybody that's on that committee, they could take this problem, and have it resolved locally because it's a matter of how to do this and I really thank you for allowing me to talk this morning.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* I apologize for not calling you earlier. I was just told you weren't going to testify, but I'm so glad that you did. Thank you so much.

We also have written testimony that's been submitted. I just want to acknowledge that from Mr. Chuck Tanner, who's a Retired Major U.S. Army and again, I want to thank all of you for your testimony and I'd like to acknowledge my co-sponsor and ask him to say a few words as well, or questions or comments.

Senator Jose 'Pedo' Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Madam Speaker. Before I share my thoughts to each one of our panels. I just want to say that I am also a Vietnam veteran and I'm looking at members of the panel right here. I know that I have been in contact with Major Mangloña, Bill, the Congressman and, Major First Sergeant I guess and probably every now and then I kind of just converse with our good Congressman here. I just want to say that we have several projects and programs that is going on right now and I've touched base with, I've been communicating with General Perez, the former Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, who I serve also when he was the general and the First Sergeant Benavente on a project that we should be starting. I'm talking about a veteran's monument that is going to be erected at the *Plaza de Espana* and there's several things that we're working on as far as the commitment of the Legislature to give us an area over at the *Plaza de Espana*. I've worked with Tim Aguon, the Director of the Veterans Affairs on expanding the veteran's cemetery. I know Bill, we've talked about several things that we need to do and as far as some of the things that are very important in our mission in making sure that we invigorate the process and to support our veterans. One of the things that I'm really pushing forward is the regional office for Guam. I would say that Sergeant Major Manglona knows this, that unless we have the regional office here in Guam, the medical

problems that we have, like getting the equipment and requesting medication, are going to continue.

I guess with the numbers of veterans that we have in from the Philippines, from the territories or the islands around us on Guam, I think we can do the numbers that we have, we can justify the request to have a vigilant regional office here in Guam. I mentioned the expansion of the veteran's cemetery. I'm working with Tim Aguon and he's also proposing not only within the fence at the veteran's cemetery, but also outside the fence, because we feel that maybe in 10 years from now, we wouldn't have enough space to barrier our veterans over there. So, we're in the process of working with the commanding general here in the Navy to get the property outside the fence. So those are the things that I'm working on and hopefully we can continue to, uh, to make sure that the leaders in the veterans' affairs and the command understand the situation that we face here in Guam, so I am fully dedicated to continuing working to advance the services for veterans and Guam. I want to thank all the panel for your testimony today. Thank you very much. Thank you very much Madam Speaker.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Senator Terlaje. I want to again, thank you all for your leadership. I'm so very honored by the presence of all of you in this room, truly the leaders, those on virtual as well, and your advocacy for veterans not just today, but if I've known any of you. So, it's probably gone on much longer than that. I'm convinced that we have true leaders in this room and on our virtual stream in support of this resolution and I wanted to thank you for your continued care and your service to fellow veterans and to our community.

I just want to note, I'm going to allow all the senators to ask questions or make comments, but I want to note that the membership that is being proposed in the H. R. 3730 is to have 15 members on the committee and the bill promises that there will be at least one member from each of the eight areas that they list which includes Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

With that, I'm going to allow Senator Perez, if you would like to make comments.

Senator Sabina F. Perez: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also want to thank you as well for being here today. I am humbled and honored to be in your presence and to see that you are persistent in committing yourselves to service for the people, both within

the military and now as a veteran. I think this is such an important bill because it empowers our vets to really seek the solutions that are of long-standing issues. I know healthcare is one of the biggest issues that really needs to be resolved. I mean, it's unfair to have to go to Hawaii to get the medical service and the pharmaceuticals that you need. I think this is important, that's why this bill is so important because it allows access to the decision makers to address these longstanding issues and I really want to thank you all because you've persisted in the community for so long and advocated for this. I think it'd be great to see that resolution, to see that happen. I think that one of the issues being a territory, you know, we all are under U.S. Government rule, but we don't achieve that, or we don't have that equal access and oftentimes we're invisible and therefore we're left out of whatever benefits and positive means, the means to achieve what we need. So again, I'm really in support of this and I really want to thank you all for all the work that you've done. *Si Yu'os ma'åse.*

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Senator. Senator Taitague.

Senator Telo T. Taitague: *Si Yu'os ma'åse* Madam Speaker for the opportunity and I too am very grateful for you all being here and continuing the fight for our veterans who are not with us right now today to advocate for this piece of legislation that we have this resolution. I'm here most especially to ask the Speaker to include me as a co-sponsor of this resolution as I stand in full support of it and humbly asked for the placement on that. Dr. Underwood and congressmen, thank you so much for advocacy for this and it coming to fruition. It takes a while, as we all know, you know, when they always say it takes an act of Congress and we know what that means.

It takes years whenever you say that comment. So, but it's here and it's here today and we're not going to give up because if we give up, then nothing's going to happen. So, we must keep fighting for what we believe in what you said to stop becoming that second class veteran. It's so sad to hear that I'm hoping that because of this resolution, that it's ready to be heard and followed like Congressman Underwood mentioned that we need to follow this and trail this and keep on top of it. Don't just expect them to do their job. We need to do our job too, by following through with this piece of this resolution that it's being seen by Congress and do what we can to advocate the Congress itself with our other, well, what I call allies on this resolution. I just hope that before that time comes that Guam will have a say on who sits on this committee. It's going to be appointed by the secretary, but I'm just hoping that Guam will have a say on who sits in this by maybe providing some kind of group getting together, all the veterans, getting together and hopefully providing the secretary with a member

that was appointed by Guam that we at least for recommendations. I know we can't tell them what to do, but at least we can provide them recommendations on who should sit in that position and like you said, it's important for someone who's going to be there. Who's going to fight for all veterans on the island. I have a real tendency to move toward the air force because of my dad. *Biba* Air Force! That's for my dad, but *Biba*, all veterans, all veterans and I thank you so much for your service to our country and to provide us the freedom that we have today. *Un Dangkulu na si Yu'os ma'åse* and thank you Madam Speaker.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you Senator. Senator Brown.

Senator Joanne M. Brown: Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Certainly, we are honored to be in your presence today. There's no doubt we are going to be very supportive of Resolution 143-36(LS). Those of us also are our family members of veterans. I mean, my father was in the Navy, retired. He also served in Vietnam in the riverine force and had to go through this process as many of you have in trying to get services and for service-related disabilities. Ultimately, we finally were able to get his hundred percent disability before my dad passed away, but the challenge is, and frustration. I mean, being in the military, you have a mission. You want to get it done, you don't have time for bureaucracy or the patience for it and certainly he did not, but through much encouragement and persistence, we were finally able to process the paperwork. I know what that's like, because the first documents that were sent were lost and then you wait months and months, you don't hear anything back, you must be persistent to follow up and it was a very long process.

Also, just going through and I accompanied him to several his appointments, of course because they have to determine ultimately that the elements and the sicknesses that you have are related to your service. I was able to go with him to a number of those appointments, very time consuming and very frustrating to the point that even my dad just didn't want to keep going. It's just too much of a hassle. It's not worth the hassle, but when the time finally came, he was able to get through that whole process and was finally determined that his illnesses were service-related, and he was determined to be a hundred percent service disabled. I know it was an important moment for him, as I know it is for many of our veterans that need the support and service. You know, as you mentioned earlier, for a veteran to have to go to Hawaii for prosthesis, can you imagine getting on the plane when you already have a limitation, a health limitation, not everybody desires to travel or go through the inconvenience of traveling and there's no reason some of those key services can't be provided to our

veterans that are here on Guam. As mentioned, yes. Second rate, we hear that often, but we always provide first rate service. So that's what's often heard of all our young men and women and those of you that have served in the armed forces of the United States. You've always had a glowing response in terms of your evaluation and your collective performance over the years.

So certainly, we're very supportive of this resolution and we look forward to having a seat at the table for you, for all of you veterans to be able to raise your concern. I know as the congressmen over the years, we hear the concerns, we hear the frustration and yet it's like, how do we address this? How do we as a local government address it at the national level and so certainly having a seat at the table where your voices can be articulated directly to the secretary to know what the issues or concerns are that are affecting our veterans out here in the islands, Guam, and our neighboring islands and the other, Commonwealth and territories of the U.S. I think it's important, as you mentioned, to have a key seat at the table.

So, you certainly have my support. I don't doubt this resolution will pass a hundred percent of all members of the legislature and we will continue to advocate for you and thank you for your service, your presence, your testimony, and reminding us of what's real. We're in budget deliberations right now and you know, we can talk about money and issues and things, but boy, when you see the faces of our people and the key issues that affect you, that effect should be on the forefront of our minds. It's a reminder today about what's important and what matters. So, thank you so much for coming and providing your testimony for us today. Thank you. Thank you, Congressmen also.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Mendiola?

Retired U.S. Army 1st Sergeant Daniel Mendiola, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 668: I been listening and following Senator Joanne Brown and her position and stuff like that, and she seems to be very accountable with a specialty in financing and everything else and I heard the gentlemen all the way to the end saying that when we need something a pill, aspirin or something like that, that Honolulu had to approve it. One thing to think about, the reason behind that is Honolulu holds the money for every aspirin that's going to be distributed here in Guam. It's all about money and until we control our own money by having a veteran's hospital here in Guam, be accountable for the money that's going to build that hospital, and how we disperse the expenses. Also at the same time, we need to

prove to the world that we can take care of our finances the proper way, which I'm not saying all the time, but I think I just want to pass that on to all the Senators that between me and our Chairman for the Veterans Commission, we're looking real hard at advocating and going forward into the possibility of building a veteran's hospital in Guam and now I see this committee to be a very important part.

Once we get our voice up there and we consolidate all our ideas to make it plain and simple and show, we can get that money that's going to Honolulu region and put it here based in Guam and then we could be the rim for medical services for all the veterans around this area. Thank you.

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: Thank you. If I could, Chuck Tanner in his testimony, he is in support of the H. R. 3730, talks about some past attempts to do something like that -- increase the voice of people from Guam and these other islands, and of course is in support of it. He also says -- but why wait, we can act now. So, he makes a couple of suggestions that I'm just going to read onto the record.

“The veteran commission can reach out and include a portion of their current meeting to collaborate with veteran’s groups that exist in the co-funding. A zoom conference can be set up and now work can start the information from these meetings can be reported to the association of Pacific Island legislatures and where local action can occur then move forward. If federal action is needed, then the voice is stronger except for can then grow from an agenda item on the Guam veteran commission to a standalone meeting in which you invite veteran administration officials. We can start by getting an idea of how many veterans are out here in the forgotten Pacific. We can capture the personal stories of service to the country. We can start putting faces to the issues and this way, H.R. 3730 will get teeth. If passed, then the proposed committee is off to a running start. If it dies in committee, then the effort continues and builds.”

Chairperson Speaker Terlaje to panel: I am very much appreciative of all the suggestions that you have made for us, for our action for fellow veterans and of course for Congressional action. So, I appreciate all the suggestions. I'm going to make sure that all this testimony is of course uploaded to our website so that all can see and that it's made available to the commissions and all the organizations going forward, in order that you can also use that. If there's anyone else who would like to make a comment.

Senator Jose ‘Pedo’ Terlaje: Madam Speaker, I just want to comment that when I look at the panel, they are all within my age group. So, I'm most appreciative to just come up here and be with them because these are my brothers. These are my age group. So, thank you very much for being here. *Si Yu'os ma'åse.*

Chairperson Therese M. Terlaje: *Si Yu'os ma'åse.* I too am very honored. There being no additional individuals to present further testimony, Resolution 143-36 (LS) is considered duly heard. *Si Yu'os ma'åse* to everyone, the public hearing is going to adjourn. The time is 1:00 PM.

The Hybrid Public Hearing was adjourned at 1:00 p. m.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



- Testimony in support of Resolution No. 143-36 (LS) was presented by former Congressman Robert Underwood; William Cundiff, Retired Chief Master Sergeant-Member, Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans; Retired Colonel Joaquin “Danny” Santos; Joe San Agustin, Chairperson, Guam Veteran’s Commission; Daniel Mendiola, 1st Sergeant Retired U.S. Army, President, Vietnam Veterans of America Ch. 668; Mayor Jesse Alig, President, Mayors Council of Guam; P. Tim Aguon, Director, Guam Veterans Affairs Office; Command Sgt. Major Martin Mendiola, Retired U.S. Army Major Chuck Tanner, and Retired U.S. Army Major General Benny Paulino.
- Testimony presented was in great support of H.R. 3730, introduced by the Delegate of the Northern Marianas, Gregorio Kili Camacho, with the co-sponsorship of eleven representatives to include Guam Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas. H.R. 3730 seeks to establish an Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs within the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs that will represent U.S. military veterans living in Guam and other outlying areas in the Pacific, who are underserved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Guam Legislature Resolution No. 143 (LS) will send the Guam Legislature and people of Guam’s support for H.R. 3730 and recognizes that an advisory committee composed of members representing each of the outlying areas will greatly improve representation, to better serve and deliver crucial services to our military veterans and their families.

Speaker Therese M. Terlaje hereby reports out Resolution No. 143-36 (LS), with the recommendation: To do adopt.

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje 
Jose "Pedro" Terlaje 

Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***
2 ***GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs offers business, death,
4 education, employment, financial, health, housing, legal advocacy and assistance,
5 memorial, recreation, state government services, tax, and territory government services
6 benefits to all United States military veterans; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Guam, which according to the 2010 Island Area Census conducted
8 by the U.S. Census Bureau has the highest percentage of veterans at 7.9 percent among
9 the U.S. territories, should have access to the benefits offered by the U.S. Department
10 of Veteran Affairs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Guam veterans in the past and present have vocalized their concern
12 over the inadequate care they have received from the U.S. Department of Veterans
13 Affairs, stating experiences such as medical claims never being processed, the island

1 having no specialized treatment facilities, and under-staffing at VA Guam Community-
2 Based Outpatient Clinic, the island’s only veteran outpatient care site; and

3 **WHEREAS**, to resolve benefit disparities, Honorable Delegate Gregorio Kilili
4 Camacho Sablan introduced to the House of Representatives H.R. 3730 with ten co-
5 sponsors, which includes Guam’s Honorable Delegate Michael F. Q. San Nicholas; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of H.R. 3730 is to establish in the Department of
7 Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely
8 Associated States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Advisory Committee will be comprised of 15 voting members
10 appointed to represent covered veterans in eight remote areas of the world, one of them
11 being Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the duty of Guam’s Advisory Committee member representative
13 will include:

14 “(1) To advise the Secretary on matters relating to covered veterans, including
15 how the Secretary can improve the programs and services of the Department to better
16 serve such veterans.

17 “(2) To identify for the Secretary evolving issues of relevance to covered
18 veterans.

19 “(3) To propose clarifications, recommendations, and solutions to address issues
20 raised by covered veterans.

21 “(4) To provide a forum for covered veterans, veterans service organizations
22 serving covered veterans, and the Department to discuss issues and proposals for
23 changes to regulations, policies, and procedures of the Department.

24 “(5) To identify priorities for and provide advice to the Secretary on appropriate
25 strategies for consultation with veterans service organizations serving covered veterans.

26 “(6) To encourage the secretary to work with other departments and agencies of
27 the Federal Government and Congress to ensure covered veterans are provided the full
28 benefits of their status as covered veterans.

29 “(7) To highlight contributions of covered veterans in the Armed Forces.

1 “(8) To conduct other duties as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”; now
2 therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
4 behalf of the people of Guam, stand in support and advocate for the passage of H.R.
5 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department
6 of Veteran Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely
7 Associated States, and for other purposes; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
9 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Speaker of
10 the House Nancy Pelosi; Honorable Representative Mark Takano, Chairman of the
11 House Committee on Veterans' Affairs; Honorable Delegate from the Northern
12 Marianas Islands Gregorio Kilili Camacho; Honorable Delegate from Guam Michael F.
13 Q. San Nicholas; Honorable Representative from California Julia Brownley; Honorable
14 Delegate from America Samoa Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen; Honorable
15 Delegate from the U.S. Virgin Islands Stacey E. Plaskett; Honorable Resident
16 Commissioner from Puerto Rico Jenniffer González-Colón; Honorable Representative
17 from Hawai'i Kaiali'l Kahele; Honorable Representative from Arizona Raul M.
18 Grijalva; Honorable Representative from Hawai'i Ed Case; Honorable Representative
19 from Arizona Ruben Gallego; Honorable Representative from New Jersey Albio Sires;
20 Mr. P. Tim Aguon Director of the Guam Veteran's Affairs Office; and to the Honorable
21 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF AUGUST 2021.

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary