

***I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**RESOLUTIONS**

<b>Resolution No.</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date Intro</b>	<b>Date of Presentation</b>	<b>Date Adopted</b>	<b>Date Referred</b>	<b>Referred to</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING DATE</b>	<b>DATE AUTHOR/ COMMITTEE REPORT FILED</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
2-37 (COR)	Jesse A. Lujan	RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING URGING THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO AUTHORIZE A TEMPORARY TWENTY-FOUR (24) CONSECUTIVE MONTH JONES ACT WAIVER FOR GUAM.	1/6/23 11:55 a.m.							

*I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2023 (FIRST) Regular Session

**Resolution No. 2-37 (COR)**

Introduced by:

  
Jesse A. Lujan

**RELATIVE TO RECOGNIZING URGING THE  
UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY AND THE UNITED STATES  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO AUTHORIZE A  
TEMPORARY TWENTY-FOUR (24)  
CONSECUTIVE MONTH JONES ACT WAIVER  
FOR GUAM.**

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

3 **WHEREAS,** *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that Guam is an indispensable  
4 strategic hub for the United States Military. Guam enables the United States to  
5 project power within the Indo-Pacific region and allows the US to maintain security  
6 commitments to key allies. The US territory is essential to the national security of  
7 the American citizenry. This is due to the advantageous geographical location of  
8 the island. Guam is a strategic waypoint and provides critical logistics support for  
9 military operations for the United States Department of Defense. With a population  
10 of approximately twenty-one thousand, seven hundred (21,700) military personnel  
11 and their dependents stationed on Guam, a significant percentage of them residing  
12 off base, integrating the military population with the local community, it is in the  
13 interest of the U.S. National Security that goods and supplies shipped into the island

1 from the United States Mainland and Hawaii are temporarily unencumbered by the  
2 limiting restrictions of U.S. flagged vessels. Therefore, it is the intent of this  
3 resolution to petition the Biden-Harris Administration, the Secretary of Homeland  
4 Security, and the Secretary of Defense for a twenty-four (24) month Jones Act  
5 Waiver to ease the immense financial strain felt by the people of Guam caused by  
6 the Jones Act; and

7       **WHEREAS**, for the Department of Defense, the convenience of being  
8 approximately 3,800 miles closer to the Korean peninsula and the Taiwan Strait  
9 than Hawaii, the island of Guam is ideally positioned in the Indo-Pacific Region,  
10 with a tactical vantage point relative to monitoring and assessing critical situations  
11 developing in East Asia as well as an active stopover for military troops en route to  
12 the Middle East. “Guam’s geostrategic importance cannot be overstated,” U.S.  
13 Pacific Command chief Admiral Thomas Fargo said. “Both Navy and Air Force  
14 facilities will continue to figure prominently in Guam’s increasing role as a power  
15 projection hub.” Guam is an imperative base of operations for the U.S. Military and  
16 is the first response location for the region of Asia. Former IndoPaCom commander,  
17 Admiral Phil Davidson also recently stated “The most important action the  
18 Pentagon can take to increase U.S. military capability in the Pacific is to introduce  
19 a 360-degree, persistent, air and missile defense capability on Guam.” Undoubtedly,  
20 increasing missile defense capability in Guam also means increasing Military  
21 personnel, infrastructure, and support capability to support further expansion; and

22       **WHEREAS**, in light of its geostrategic importance, Guam is a crux of U.S.  
23 military power in the Indo-Pacific. With its favorable range, the air force and naval  
24 command posts on the island benefit immensely as it is both far enough from the  
25 Chinese mainland, sitting just beyond the reach of the PLA’s short-range missiles,  
26 and close enough to provide substantial logistical support to U.S. forces active in

1 the East and South China Seas. When assessing the organic military capacity and  
2 proficiency on Guam, Senior Policy Analyst for Nuclear Deterrence and Missile  
3 Defense at the Center for National Defense, Patty-Jane Geller recognized that  
4 “Anderson AFB hosts F-22 fighter squadrons, as well as the Bomber Task Force,  
5 enabling significant air-based power projection from the island.” In addition, Geller  
6 noted that “the Navy has access to Guam’s deep water strategic port, which enables  
7 repair and supply of the Pacific fleet—including aircraft carriers—during a conflict  
8 with China;” and

9       **WHEREAS**, the activation and formal establishment of MCB Camp Blaz on  
10 October 1, 2020, not only bolsters the United States’ combat power in the Western  
11 Pacific by securing a Marine Corps posture in the Indo-Pacific region that is  
12 geographically distributed and operationally resilient, it also marks a significant  
13 milestone of the realignment of forces and honors an international agreement with  
14 the Government of Japan. MCB Camp Blaz will play an essential role in  
15 strengthening the Department of Defense’s ability to deter and defend and is also a  
16 testament to the strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance; and

17       **WHEREAS**, on top of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the effects of  
18 global inflation, the current military buildup has put an additional strain on the  
19 island’s housing rental market. With an estimated five thousand marines soon to be  
20 transferred from Okinawa to Guam, as well as the continued fortifying and  
21 enhancing of both Navy and Air Force facilities on the island, the impact of the  
22 military buildup on Guam is undeniable and will continue to stress the housing  
23 market and construction industry. Military expansion on Guam has significantly  
24 driven up the cost of construction, construction-related materials, supplies,  
25 resources, repairs, and upgrades. A significant portion of the military population  
26 lives off-base due to the shortage of on-base housing. The housing allowance  
27 provided to all military personnel living off base has tremendously driven up the

1 cost of rent for all renters in Guam. This rent stipend far exceeds what the average  
2 non-military renter can afford. Likewise, in order for the construction and  
3 development of the military buildup to continue, thousands of foreign workers have  
4 been and continue to be hired and come to Guam, all of whom require housing of  
5 their own and further constrict the local housing market. Not to mention, hundreds  
6 if not thousands of contractors, who support the buildup and work for the  
7 Department of Defense, are also relocating to Guam, adding more to the list of  
8 renters. In addition to ever-soaring rents, the cost of building affordable housing has  
9 surged and younger families are almost completely priced out of the housing market.  
10 As little as five years ago a younger family had viable options to buy an affordable  
11 home. The average home price has more than doubled in the last three to four years  
12 making it very difficult for even medium-income and upper-middle-income families  
13 able to find an affordable home to purchase; and

14         **WHEREAS**, beyond the scope of the military buildup squeezing the rental  
15 market, Guam already imports everything. Guam is at the literal end of the  
16 American supply chain. Supply chain problems impact Guam even more severely  
17 than almost other American communities. Few other bases on American soil face  
18 the supply chain challenges faced in Guam. With very few American-built and  
19 flagged ships serving the island; the cost of shipping goods to Guam is very  
20 expensive. Even though the demand on the island has increased, the number of  
21 Jones Act-compliant vessels serving Guam has not. Everything shipped from the  
22 United States for civilian or military use and civilian or military construction  
23 supplies, is transported on the same ships. The military buildup, while bringing  
24 significant economic opportunities to Guam, has been partly responsible for  
25 skyrocketing prices foisted upon the residents of Guam over the last several years;  
26 and

1           **WHEREAS**, with nearly all Guam residents being U.S. citizens and the fact  
2 that the vast majority of the general public currently either supports or is directly  
3 involved with the military buildup, it is in the interest of the U.S. National Security  
4 to grant a Jones Act waiver. If action isn't taken to provide some relief, this  
5 perspective may change, thus resulting in the buildup becoming perceived as more  
6 of an economic liability than a positive contribution to the island; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Defense has already acknowledged  
8 Guam's high cost of living with Basic Allowance for Housing that pays the rent and  
9 utilities for military personnel living off base. The military on Guam also have  
10 Commissary access on base and other subsidies. Many service families, simply  
11 could not make ends meet without the 25 percent or more price savings provided  
12 by commissaries against the local marketplace; and

13           **WHEREAS**, temporarily exempting Guam from Jones Act requirements  
14 could help reduce costs for almost all goods imported to the island. Including the  
15 cost of building and construction materials, along with households like batteries,  
16 canned food, toiletries, and other goods; and

17           **WHEREAS**, with Guam's military bases providing America's strategic  
18 positioning in the Western Pacific Ocean, the need for reliable and fairly priced  
19 goods is increasingly important as a matter of national security as Guam serves as  
20 a critical strategic waypoint for US military operations and logistics in the Asian  
21 region. Additionally considering that military personnel is also dependent on the  
22 importation of goods, relying on limited vessels restricts much-needed resources  
23 and goods coming into the island, which may hinder the military's readiness and  
24 ability to function and operate; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the Homeland Security is authorized to waive Jones Act  
26 requirements and allow foreign-flag vessels to engage in coastwise trade in the  
27 interest of national defense; now therefore, be it

1           **RESOLVED**, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
2   behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Secretary of Homeland Security or the  
3   Secretary of Defense to temporarily waive Jones Act requirements for all goods  
4   imported to Guam for twenty-four (24) months. Now therefore, be it

5           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,  
6   the adoption hereof, and that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to  
7   the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the Honorable  
8   Kamala D.Harris, Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Alejandro  
9   Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary  
10  of Defense; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.