

**I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN  
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
234-37 (LS)	William A. Parkinson Jesse A. Lujan Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Joe S. San Agustin Roy A. B. Quinata Tina Rose Muña Barnes	RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.	10/26/23 11:14 a.m.			10/30/23	Author	12/13/23 9:00 a.m.	1/8/24 12:17 p.m.	



# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

January 4, 2024

**The Honorable  
Speaker**

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Guam Congress Building

163 Chalan Santo Papa

*Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

**VIA: The Honorable Chris Barnett** *CB*  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**

*Buenas yan Håfa adai Speaker Cruz,*

Transmitted herewith for consideration by the body is the Author's Report on **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**, As introduced—"RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES."

Sincerely,

Senator William A. Parkinson

Author



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Received:

January 4, 2024 3:18 p.m.

*Beatrice Cruz*



# **Senator William A. Parkinson**

*Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance*

## **AUTHOR'S REPORT**

### **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson, Jesse A. Lujan, Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas,  
Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A. B. Quinata, Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**“RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”**



# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

January 4, 2024

## MEMORANDUM:

**TO:** All Senators

**FROM:** Senator William A. Parkinson   
Author

**SUBJECT:** Author's Report on Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) As introduced

Transmitted herewith for your consideration is the Committee Report on **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)** – William A. Parkinson / Jesse A. Lujan / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Roy A. B. Quinata / Tina Rose Muña Barnes - "RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES."

This report includes the following:

- Copy of COR Referral of Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)
- Notice of the Public Hearings
- Public Hearing Agenda
- Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
- Submitted Testimonies & Supporting Documents
- Committee Report Digest
- Resolution No. 234-37 (LS), As Introduced

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'!*



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

October 30, 2023

**To:** **Joaquin P. Taitague**  
Substitute Clerk of the Legislature

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**  
Legislative Legal Counsel

**From:** **Senator Chris Barnett**   
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Subject:** **Referral of Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**

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*Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!*

As per authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §§ 7.03(e), and, 7.04(b) Rule VII of our Standing Rules, and 2 GCA § 2103(b), I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)** – William A. Parkinson, Jesse A. Lujan, Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A. B. Quinata, Tina Rose Muña Barnes. – “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”

Please ensure that the subject Resolution is referred to Senator William A. Parkinson, Author of the Resolution. I also request that the same be forwarded to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the resolution is available on our legislative website <https://guamlegislature.com/index/37th-guam-legislature-resolutions/>.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin J.A. Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.





# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

December 5, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

**FROM:** Senator William A. Parkinson

**SUBJECT:** FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance will conduct public hearings on Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 9:00AM at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The committee will hear and accept testimonies of the following item:

### AGENDA FOR 9:00AM:

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) – “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”**

- I.** The Reappointment of **Joseph M. McDonald** to serve as a Commissioner (**Community At-Large Representative**), Public Utilities Commission (PUC).
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- III.** The Reappointment of **Peter B. Montinola** to serve as a Commissioner (**Telecommunications Representative**), Public Utilities Commission (PUC).



# Senator William A. Parkinson

*Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance*

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson via electronic mail at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org) or call 671-989-1101 no later than **Tuesday December 12, 2023** for guidance.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson at 671-989-1101 or email at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org).

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia>. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

We are looking forward to your participation!

Respectfully,

Senator William A. Parkinson  
Chairperson



Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

3 messages

Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, mis@guamlegislature.org  
Bcc: Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 11:55 AM

December 5, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media**  
**FROM: Senator William A. Parkinson**  
**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

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We are looking forward to your participation!

--  
Respectfully,

	<p><b>Office of Senator William A. Parkinson   37th Guam Legislature</b>  <i>Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance</i></p> <p>–          Suite 905, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop FC Flores St, Hagåtña, 96910, Guam          671-989-1101  <a href="mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org">senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org</a></p>
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**2 attachments**

-  **Res. No. 234-37 (LS).pdf**  
1181K
-  **MEMO-First PH Notice - 12-05-23.pdf**  
433K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>  
To: Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>

Tue, Dec 5, 2023 at 12:01 PM

Hafa Adai=)



Noted and Posted on Calendar.

[Quoted text hidden]



*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*

**Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.**

Sergeant at Arms

37th Guam Legislature  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Tel: (671) 969-3514

Email: [sgtarms@guamlegislature.org](mailto:sgtarms@guamlegislature.org)

"Disclaimer: This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information which is privileged, confidential, proprietary, or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or the individual responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are strictly prohibited from disclosing, distributing, copying, or in any way using this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender and immediately delete any copies you may have received. Thank you."

**Senator Will Parkinson** <[senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org)>  
To: [lpalomo@guampuc.com](mailto:lpalomo@guampuc.com)


Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 9:34 AM

*Hafa Adai,*

We received your confirmation email. FYI notice of the Reappointment Hearing is attached. Thank you very much.

[Quoted text hidden]

**2 attachments**

 **Res. No. 234-37 (LS).pdf**  
1181K

 **MEMO-First PH Notice - 12-05-23.pdf**  
433K


# FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM

 PRINT

**FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

**PUBLIC HEARING**



 **Posted on:** 12/05/2023 12:25 PM

 **Posted by:** Keith Taliugyan

 **Public Hearing Date:** 12/13/2023 09:00 AM


 **Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)

 **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (/notices?division\_id=273)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

December 5, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media**

**FROM: Senator William A. Parkinson**

**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance will conduct public hearings on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 9:00AM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The committee will hear and accept testimonies of the following item:

### **AGENDA FOR 9:00AM:**

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) – “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”**

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If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson via electronic mail at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org) (<mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>) or call 671-989-1101 no later than **Tuesday December 12, 2023** for guidance.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson at 671-989-1101 or email at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org) (<mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>).

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia> (<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia>). A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

We are looking forward to your participation!



# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

December 11, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

**FROM:** Senator William A. Parkinson

**SUBJECT:** SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM

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# Senator William A. Parkinson

*Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance*

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We are looking forward to your participation!

Respectfully,

Senator William A. Parkinson  
Chairperson

**SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

6 messages

Senator Will Parkinson &lt;senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org&gt;

Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 8:48 AM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, mis@guamlegislature.org  
Bcc: Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, lpalomo@guampuc.com

December 11, 2023

**MEMORANDUM****TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media****FROM: Senator William A. Parkinson****SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM***Håfa Adai!*

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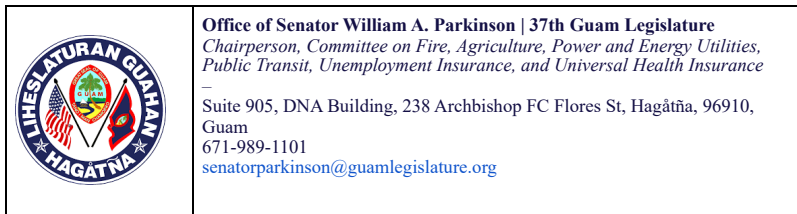
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Respectfully,

**2 attachments**

**MEMO-SECOND PH Notice - 12-11-23.pdf**  
432K

**Res. No. 234-37 (LS).pdf**  
1181K

Riyo Anne Reyes &lt;rareyes@guampdn.com&gt;

Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 9:58 AM

To: Senator Will Parkinson &lt;senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org&gt;

Hafa Adai,

Received, thank you.

Kind Regards,

**Riyo Anne Reyes**  
News Assistant



[rareyes@guampdn.com](mailto:rareyes@guampdn.com)

[www.guampdn.com](http://www.guampdn.com)

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**From:** Senator Will Parkinson <[senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 8:48 AM  
**To:** [phnotice@guamlegislature.org](mailto:phnotice@guamlegislature.org); Ed Pocaigue <[sgtarms@guamlegislature.org](mailto:sgtarms@guamlegislature.org)>; Audio / Video <[av@guamlegislature.org](mailto:av@guamlegislature.org)>; [mis@guamlegislature.org](mailto:mis@guamlegislature.org)  
**Subject:** SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM

December 11, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media

**FROM:** Senator William A. Parkinson

**SUBJECT:** **SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

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Respectfully,

	<p><b>Office of Senator William A. Parkinson   37th Guam Legislature</b>  <i>Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance</i></p> <p>–          Suite 905, DNA Building, 238 Archbishop FC Flores St, Hagåtña, 96910, Guam          671-989-1101  <a href="mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org">senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org</a></p>
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To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org](mailto:phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org).

**Senator Will Parkinson** <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>  
 To: "guamfcg@gmail.com" <guamfcg@gmail.com>, pcgagana@gmail.com

Mon, Dec 11, 2023 at 10:38 AM

Hafa Adai,

Please see attached notice for **Resolution No.234-37(LS)**.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From: Senator Will Parkinson** <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>


[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

**2 attachments**

 **MEMO-SECOND PH Notice - 12-11-23.pdf**  
432K

 **Res. No. 234-37 (LS).pdf**  
1181K

**Filipino Community of Guam** <guamfcg@gmail.com>  
 To: Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>  
 Cc: pcgagana@gmail.com

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 1:51 PM

Acknowledging receipt of this email. Thank you!

[Quoted text hidden]

**Fred Horecky** <horeckylaw@teleguam.net>  
 To: Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>, phnotice@guamlegislature.org, Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>, Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>, mis@guamlegislature.org  
 Cc: Lou Palomo <lpalomo@guampuc.com>, Colleen Chlarson <cchlarson@guampuc.com>

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 3:19 PM

Dear Senator Parkinson:

I am the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the Guam Public Utilities Commission. I submit the enclosed written testimonies in support of the reappointments of Joseph M. McDonald, Peter B. Montinola, and Jeffrey C. Johnson as Commissioners of the Guam Public Utilities Commission.

I will also present oral testimony. Thank you

Sincerely,

Fred Horecky

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Guam Public Utilities Commission

c/o Law Office of Frederick J. Horecky

643 Chalan San Antonio, Ste. 102B

Tamuning, Guam 96913

(w)646-8274/5

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horeckylaw@teleguam.net



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**From:** Senator Will Parkinson <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 11, 2023 8:48 AM  
**To:** phnotice@guamlegislature.org; Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>; Audio / Video <av@guamlegislature.org>; mis@guamlegislature.org


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 **2023-12-12 TESTIMONIES IN SUPPORT OF THE REAPPOINTMENTS OF JEFFERY C. JOHNSON, JOSEPH M. McDONALD, AND PETER B. MONTINOLA AS COMMISSIONERS TO THE GUAM PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.pdf**  
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**Senator Will Parkinson** <senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>  
To: Fred Horecky <horeckylaw@teleguam.net>

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 3:29 PM

Hafa Adai,

Acknowledging receipt of this email. Thank you.

[Quoted text hidden]

# SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM

 PRINT

**SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023  
beginning at 9:00AM**

**PUBLIC HEARING**



📅 **Posted on:** 12/11/2023 08:49 AM

👤 **Posted by:** Keith Taliugyan

📅 **Public Hearing Date:** 12/13/2023 09:00 AM

🏢 **Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)

🏢 **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR WILLIAM A. PARKINSON (/notices?division\_id=273)

🔍 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

📌 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

👥 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

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December 11, 2023

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Honorable Senators, Stakeholders and Media**

**FROM: Senator William A. Parkinson**

**SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE of Public Hearings – Wednesday December 13, 2023 beginning at 9:00AM**

*Håfa Adai!*

Please be advised that the Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance, and Universal Health Insurance will conduct public hearings on **Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 9:00AM** at the Public Hearing Room in the Guam Congress Building. The committee will hear and accept testimonies of the following item:

### AGENDA FOR 9:00AM:

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) – “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”**

- I. The Reappointment of **Joseph M. McDonald** to serve as a Commissioner (**Community At-Large Representative**), Public Utilities Commission (PUC).
- II. The Reappointment of **Dr. Jeffrey C. Johnson** to serve as a Commissioner (**Business Representative**), Public Utilities Commission (PUC).
- III. The Reappointment of **Peter B. Montinola** to serve as a Commissioner (**Telecommunications Representative**), Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

If you are interested in participating in the Public Hearing to provide testimony, please contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson via electronic mail at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org) (<mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>) or call 671-989-1101 no later than **Tuesday December 12, 2023** for guidance.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Senator William A. Parkinson at 671-989-1101 or email at [senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org) (<mailto:senatorparkinson@guamlegislature.org>).

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia> (<https://www.youtube.com/@GuamLegislatureMedia>). A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing.

We are looking forward to your participation!



# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

## AGENDA

### Public Hearings

Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress building

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)** – William A. Parkinson / Jesse A. Lujan / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Roy A. B. Quinata / Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
“RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”

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# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

## PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

Wednesday, December 13, 2023 – 9:00 AM

Congress Building Public Hearing Room.

**Resolution No.234-37 (LS)** – Introduced by Senator William A. Parkinson, Jesse A. Lujan, Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, Joe S. San Agustin, Roy A. B. Quinata, Tina Rose Muña Barnes - "RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES."

NAME:	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	POSITION	TESTIMONY	CONTACT INFORMATION
1. <i>Rolando B. Lermagne</i>	<i>Philippine Consulate Hagåtña</i>	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
2. <i>J. Ricardo Aragon</i>	<i>Phil. Consulate General</i>	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. <i>Hessana Delacruz</i>	<i>Phil Consulate</i>	SUPPORT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
4.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
5.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
6.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
7.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
8.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
9.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	
10.		SUPPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OPPOSE <input type="checkbox"/>	WRITTEN <input type="checkbox"/> ORAL <input type="checkbox"/>	

REMARKS  
of Consul General ROSARIO P. LEMQUE  
on the occasion of the  
The Public Hearing on Resolution 234-37  
13 December 2023

Honorable Senator Will Parkinson  
Honorable Senators  
Stakeholders  
Friends  
Kababayans  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning and Hafa adai!

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Senate of Guam for putting forth the Resolution 234-37, Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Time and again, the Philippines, in every given fora, has underscored the importance of the preservation of a rules-based global order, a collective responsibility of all nations and territories. This rules-based global order is governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and of justice. Its present and future rest on the predictability and stability of international law, which safeguards the rights of all nations.

Guided by an independent foreign policy, the Philippines continues to actively work with nations and territories to promote a rules-based international order and advocate for the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with international law. This has always been our position with respect to the disputes in the West Philippine Sea, inasmuch as we are prepared to defend our sovereignty, sovereign rights and territorial integrity.

The Philippines remains seriously concerned over recent developments in the West Philippine Sea, especially infringements on our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction. Despite commitments to the rule of law as espoused in UNCLOS and in the declaration of a Code of Conduct on the South China Sea, parties continue to violate the recognized maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines. Some of the serious incidents over the past months include the shadowing, harassment, use of water cannons, and the conduct of dangerous maneuvers leading to incidents of collision against regular rotation and resupply missions of Philippine marine law enforcement agencies in Ayungin Shoal.

It is rather regrettable that just this weekend, Filipino vessels were doused with water cannons in Bajo de Masinloc and Ayungin Shoal, two features in the West Philippine Sea.

The exercise of maritime law enforcement powers, interference with Philippine rotation and resupply missions, harassment and intimidation of Filipino fisherfolk, or any other activity that infringes upon the Philippines' sovereignty and jurisdiction in Bajo de Masinloc, and the Philippines' sovereign rights and jurisdiction in Ayungin Shoal, are violations of international law, particularly UNCLOS.

Protecting and asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction and maintaining peace and security and an international rules-based order in the West Philippine Sea continue to be among the Philippines' major foreign policy priorities and we will continue to uphold and protect our entitlements under the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award through diplomacy, military, law enforcement and public diplomacy action.

The Philippines welcomes the Resolution by the Senate of Guam on the Philippines' claim to the West Philippine Sea, particularly the recognition of the 2016 Arbitral Award as issued by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

For the Philippines, the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award are the twin anchors of Philippine positions and activities in the South China Sea (SCS).

The 2016 Arbitral Award, an affirmation of UNCLOS' dispute resolution mechanisms, conclusively settled the status of historic rights and maritime entitlements in the South China Sea. It declared as without legal effect claims that exceed geographic and substantive limits of maritime entitlements under UNCLOS. It upheld the Philippines' sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its exclusive economic zone. It not only sets reason and right in the South China Sea, but is an inspiration for how matters should be considered – through reason and right – by states facing similarly challenging circumstances.

The Guam Senate's Resolution is very timely as it was just three days that ago that we commemorated the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the opening for signature of UNCLOS, the the universal framework that underpins all activities in the oceans and in the seas.

For the past seven years, we have celebrated the Award, which is now part of international law and we thank the many nations and territories that recognize this Award. Adherence to international law contributes to keeping the Indo-Pacific free and open and our region stable and peaceful.

The Philippines also welcomes the expressed support for the Award by the international community, most recently by the Camp David Joint Statement of Japan, the Republic of

Korea and the United States and the G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué issued at the G7 Summit held on 20 May 2023.

The Philippines has received a growing number of public expressions of support for the Award and its principled stand on the West Philippine Sea issue from different countries and territories around the world and this Resolution from Guam's Senate is another welcome development that is worthy of deep appreciation from our government.

We thank the people of Guam who are our staunch friends and allies and on whose support we can rely on in the Pacific Rim. We are likewise grateful for parliamentary advocates, like Senator Will Parkinson, who take every opportunity to ensure that the bonds of friendships between the Philippines and Guam are recognized, remembered, and celebrated.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Thank you and Mabuhay!





# Senator William A. Parkinson

Chairperson, Committee on Fire, Agriculture, Power and Energy Utilities, Public Transit, Unemployment Insurance and Universal Health Insurance

## AUTHOR'S REPORT DIGEST

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) – William A. Parkinson / Jesse A. Lujan / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Roy A. B. Quinata / Tina Rose Muña Barnes - “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.”**

### I. OVERVIEW

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)** was introduced on October 26, 2023 by Senator William A. Parkinson / Jesse A. Lujan / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin / Roy A. B. Quinata / Tina Rose Muña Barnes. The Resolution was referred by the Committee on Rules to the Author on October 30, 2023.

The Author convened a public hearing on Resolution No. 234-37 (LS) on December 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building). The Public Hearing began at 9:00 a.m. and was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

### **Public Notice Requirements**

In accordance with the Open Government Law, public notices for the Public Hearing were disseminated via e-mail to all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday December 5, 2023 (5-Day Notice), and on December 11, 2023 (48-Hour Notice). The public notice was also posted on the Government of Guam Public Notice portal and the Guam Legislature website.

Author's Report Digest:

Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

Date: December 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLIF9J5Bb5c>

### **Senators Present**

Senator William A. Parkinson, Chairperson

Senator Jesse A. Lujan, Committee Member

Senator Christopher M. Dueñas, Legislative Member

Senator Telo T. Taitague, Legislative Member

### **Appeared Before the Committee**

Hon. Rosario P. Lemque- Philippine Consul General

Joaquin Ricardo R. Aragon- Consul

Hossana P. Dela Cruz – Consular Assistant

### **Submitted Written Testimony**

Honorable Rosario P. Lemque – Philippine Consul General

## II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The Public hearing was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Chairman Parkinson:** *Håfa Adai* and good morning to you and to the people of Guam. Today is Wednesday, December 13, 2023. This public hearings will be conducted by myself Senator William A. Parkinson, Chairman of the committee on fire, agriculture, power and energy utilities, public transit, unemployment insurance, and universal health insurance.

**Chairman Parkinson:** This public hearing is called to order in the time is 9:02. For the record and to comply with the open Government Law, notice of this hearing was disseminated to all local media outlets on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the second notice was also shared to all local media on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Notice of these hearings was also posted and available on the Guam Legislature's website and the Government of Guam Public Notice Portal.

**Chairman Parkinson:** We have two items on our agenda this morning Resolution 234-37 (LS) and the confirmation hearing on the three individuals to serve as Commissioners with the Guam Public Utilities Commission. We will start with **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**, the committee will hear discussions and hear testimonies on Resolution 234-37(LS) relative to expressing the support of the people of Guam for the Republic of the Philippines legitimate and historical claim to the West Philippine Sea, reaffirming the crucial role of international law, and acknowledging the invaluable ties and common history between Guam and the Philippines. Introduced by myself Senator William A. Parkinson. Co-sponsored by Senator Jesse A Lujan, Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas, Senator Joe S. San Agustin, Senator Roy A. B. Quinata, and Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes.

Author's Report Digest:

Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

Date: December 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLIF9J5Bb5c>

**Chairman Parkinson:** I would also like to welcome my colleagues today Senator Jesse Lujan and Senator Duenas. Thank you for coming today.

**Chairman Parkinson:** Rules of conduct of this hearing when you speak please make sure that the microphone is on and state your name and title for recordkeeping purposes. Panel members are asked to remain in the room for question questions or for additional testimony as may be desired by members of the committee. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substant or nature of the agenda personal infringement as to the character or motive of any Senator or individual testifying is not permitted. Individuals who fail to abide by these rules will be restricted from participating and be escorted and removed from the room. We will now proceed with discussions on Resolution Number 234-37 (LS). I will start by giving my opening statement as prime sponsor of the resolution.

**Chairman Parkinson:** The West Philippine Sea is more than just a body of water; it is a symbol of the Philippines' identity, pride, and history. The Philippines' claim to the West Philippine Sea is grounded in a foundation as solid as the ancient rocks that form its islands and as clear as the waters that surround them. It is a claim supported by historical evidence, validated by international law, and echoed by the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016. This is not just a territorial dispute; it is a stand for what is right, Guam's support is not just a gesture of friendship; it is a testament to the shared values and mutual respect that bind our communities. As the resolution says the Republic of the Philippines, based on its historical records, archaeological evidence, and legal instruments, possesses enduring claims over territories and maritime zones within the West Philippine Sea, notably the Spratly Islands, Scarborough Shoal, and their adjacent waters. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to which both the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America are signatories, establishes the legal framework that delineates the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans and in 2016, the

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Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

Date: December 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLIF9J5Bb5c>

Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, acknowledging the principles set by UNCLOS, ruled overwhelmingly in favor of the Philippines, declaring that China's expansive "nine- dash line" claim over the South China Sea has no legal basis and confirmed the Philippines' sovereign rights over its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea. We are concerned by the increasing environmental degradation in one of the world's most biodiverse marine ecosystems, where dredging and construction activities have led to the direct loss of over 3,000 acres of coral reefs, endangering species dependent on these habitats and affecting fishery resources. Dredging has increased water turbidity, threatening marine life by blocking sunlight, affecting photosynthesis in marine plants, and potentially harming fish larvae and other marine organisms. In this journey, let us remember that our fight is not one of aggression, but of assertion; not of hostility, but of dignity. We seek not to create conflict, but to prevent it. We strive not for conquest, but for justice. Our aim is not to divide, but to unite under the shared principles of fairness and respect for all nations. So, let us move forward with hope, courage, and determination. Let us continue to build alliances and foster understanding. Let our voices, joined, be a clarion call for justice and peace. Together, we can turn the tide of history. Together, we can ensure that the West Philippine Sea remains a sea of peace, cooperation, and prosperity for all. *Kaya, mahalaga na sabihin natin sa buong mundo na ang West Philippine Sea ay para talaga sa Pilipinas. Ito ay parte ng ating bansa at may mga batas na nagsasabi na sa atin ito. Kapag tayo ay nagtutulungan at ipinapakita na mahalaga ito sa atin, mas malakas ang ating boses.* Together we will have a stronger voice. I look forward to the testimony today. We will now hear testimony from those who joined us today for individuals giving testimony please make sure your mic is on and state your name for the recordkeeping purposes. Ma'am the floor is now open to you.

**Rosario P. Lemque- Philippines Consul General:** Thank you very much Senator Parkinson. I am The Honorable Rosario Lemque, The Consul

Author's Report Digest:

Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

Date: December 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLIF9J5Bb5c>

General of the Philippines. I wish to deliver our statement Honorable Senator Will Parkinson, Senators Lujan, Senator Duenas. First and foremost, good morning and *Håfa Adai*. First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the 37th Senate of Guam putting forth Resolution 234-37. Resolution Number 234-37 relative to expressing the support of the people of Guam for the Republic of the Philippines legitimate and historical claim to the West Philippine Sea reaffirming the crucial role of international law and acknowledging the invaluable ties and common history between Guam and the Philippines. Time and again the Philippines through our highest officials, the President and our Secretary of Foreign Affairs in every given fora has underscored the importance of the preservation of a rules based Global Order a collective responsibility of all Nations. This rules-based Global Order is governed by international law and informed by the principles of equity and of justice. Its present and future rest on the predictability and stability of international law which safeguards the rights of all Nations and territories. Guided by an independent foreign policy the Philippines continues to actively work with Nations to promote a rules-based international order and advocate for a peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. This has always been our position with respect to the disputes in the West Philippine Sea, in as much as we are prepared to defend our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and territorial integrity, the Philippines remain seriously concerned over recent developments in the West Philippine Sea. Especially infringements on our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction. Despite commitments to the rule of law as spoused in clause and in the Declaration of Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, parties continue to violate the recognized maritime jurisdiction of the Philippines. Some of the serious incidents over the past months include the shadowing harassment use of water cannons and the conduct of dangerous maneuvers leading to incidents of collision against regular rotation and resupply missions of Philippine Marine Law Enforcement agencies in *Ayungin shoal*. It is rather regrettable that this

Author's Report Digest:

Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

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weekend Filipino vessels were doused with water cannons in Bajo De Masinloc and Ayungin shoal to features in the West Philippine Sea. The exercise of maritime law enforcement powers interference with Philippine rotation and resupply missions, harassment, and intimidation of Filipino fisher folk or of any other activity that infringes upon the Philippines sovereignty and jurisdiction. In Bajo De Masinloc and the Philippines sovereign rights and jurisdiction in Ayungin shoal are violations of international law particularly UNCLOS. Protecting and asserting our sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction and maintaining peace and security and an international rules-based order in the West Philippine Sea continue to be among the Philippines major foreign policy priorities and we will continue to uphold and protect our entitlements under the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award through diplomacy military, law enforcement, and public diplomacy action. The Philippines well welcomes the resolution by the 37th Senate of Guam on the Philippines claim to the West Philippine Sea particularly the recognition of the 2016 Arbitral Award as issued by the arbitral tribunal constituted under Annex 7 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea. For the Philippines the UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award are the twin anchors of Philippine positions and activities in the South China Sea. The 2016 Arbitral Award and affirmation of oasis dispute resolution mechanisms conclusively settled the status of historic rights and maritime entitlements in the South China Sea. It declared as without legal effect claims that exceed Geographic and substantive limits of maritime entitlements under UNCLOS. It upheld the Philippines sovereign rights and jurisdiction in its exclusive economic zone. It not only sets reason and right in the South China Sea but it is an inspiration for how matters should be considered through reason and right by States facing similarly challenging circumstances. The Guam Senate's resolution is very timely as it was just 3 days ago that we commemorated the 41st Anniversary of the opening of the signature of UNCLOS and the universal framework that underpins all activities in the oceans and in the seas. For the past 7 years

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the Philippines has celebrated the arbitral award which is now part of international law and we thank the many nations and territories that recognize this award. Adherence to international law contributes to keeping the Indo Pacific free and open and our region stable and peaceful. The Philippines also welcomes the expressed support for the award by the International Community most recently by the Camp David joint statement of Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States and the G7 Hiroshima leaders communicate issued at the G7 Summit held on 20, May 2023. The Philippines has received a growing number of public expressions of support for the award and principled stand on the west Philippine Sea issue from the different from different countries around the world and this resolution from Guam's 37 Senate is another welcome development that is worthy of deep appreciation from our government. We thank the people of Guam who are friends and allies and whose support we can rely on in the Pacific rim we are likewise grateful for parliamentary advocates like Senator Will Parkinson on all everyone who introduced this resolution Senator Lujan, Senator San Nicolas, Senator San Agustin, Senator Roy Quinata, and Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes and all of them who take every opportunity to ensure that the bonds of friendships between the Filipino people and the people of Guam are recognized remembered and celebrated. *Si yu'os ma'åse'*. Thank you and *mabuhay*.

**Chairman Parkinson:** I would now like to open up the floor to my colleagues to make ask any questions or make any statements. If they so please speak at your leisure.

**Senator Lujan:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Good morning panel, morning Consul General. Good morning. Thank you very much again for coming in this morning and testifying in favor of Resolution 234-37 (LS) likewise and you know this is as you said was very timely because as the Philippine the Congressman's Philippine lesion representing Congressman Moylan's office. Congressman Moylan also had introduced house



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resolution. House Resolution 8-37 relative to supporting again the US Philippine Mutual Defense Commitment and so likewise we had introduced supporting his house resolution introduce resolution 260-37 (LS) introduced by myself co-authored by also Senator Will Parkinson and Senator Duenas again relative to supporting Guam's efforts in congress with House Resolution 8-37 introduced in the United States House of Representative with seeks to reaffirm the ties between the United States and the Philippines and to further support the US Philippines Mutual Defense Commitment. So that was just introduced a week and a half ago we're I guess wait waiting also as well to get confirmation on a public hearing date for this. So, we'll be asking you to again to come in to testify and this again is a sister resolution to 234, resolution that that we're having a public hearing on today. So, if you haven't seen a copy you can get on the website it's Resolution 26-37 and again it's a reaffirmation on House Resolution 8-37 sponsored by Congressman Jim Moylan the House of Representatives. Okay go ahead.

**Rosario P. Lemque Consul General:** Yes, we would like to thank the again Guam Legislature for the for that draft resolution. In fact, I will be meeting with the Honorable Congressman on Monday. He will he will be updating me regarding the developments of the resolution that is also in in Congress and also about several other things including the efforts to have a Visa waiver for Filipinos here on Guam. So, I look forward to it.

**Senator Lujan:** We have that resolution as well. We're trying to put those two resolutions together for a public hearing. We're going to merge those two as well. So, I just want you to know and again our brothers and sisters of the Philippines. The again the you know the relationship that we have with Guam and the Philippines and work very closely not only you know again with and Guam but working closely with of course our Congressman and him being the co-chair of the Philippine friendship caucus in the in Washington and likewise efforts that the administration is doing via former Governor Calvo in pushing again forward this Philippine Visa waiver.

Author's Report Digest:

Public Hearing -Resolution No.234-37(LS)

Date: December 13, 2023 @ 9:00 a.m. YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLIF9J5Bb5c>

We've had some stumbling blocks because again they want to lump everybody in you know. They don't want to carve us out we want to be carved out because the overstays that everybody else has that's not us that is not us but again you know our efforts as we continue to unite and speak with one voice. I think this is the best opportunity to be able to get this Philippine Visa waiver. So, again just showing again our ties Guam and the Philippines and we're waiting now to get an audience of course with President Bongbong Marcos to get the you know the executive support with this. We got the Philippine Congress support on this already in the Philippine Visa waiver. We're now trying to get I me we know we get the support but we want to formally be able to get that and hopefully bring that forward and again have all our documents in place to bring it forth to the state department and again the best opportunity to do it and again sitting right behind you again is a great advocate for the Philippines. You know Attorney Horecky who's a great advocate for that as well and over the years actually he's worked I mean even when I previously served in the Legislature. He helped us craft the Philippine Visa waiver so he's an advocate as well for that but anyway thank you very much again for coming in this morning and testifying and we will inform you when those two bills, those two resolutions will be up for a public hearing. We're trying to merge them and so we won't have two separate public hearings. We'll have them both in one and in you're meeting with Congress Moylan on Monday cause I'm meeting with him as well on Monday so we'll be getting updates around the same time on what's happening in in in Washington DC. But, again thank you and Merry Christmas to all of you in the Consul's office. Thank you very much.

**Rosario P. Lemque Consul General:** Yes, we wish to convey all our heartfelt appreciation first to the Guam Senate for all the support all these resolutions that you're is issuing in support of the Philippines. We the Philippines values very much its relations with the United States and it's very much evident in

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how close the Philippines and Guam have been cooperating and again I wish on behalf of the Philippines and our people I wish to express our appreciation to the officials the Legislature of Guam and to the public, the general public itself that for the support to the Filipinos the Philippines and to the good relations between Philippines and Guam. Thank you

**Senator Lujan:** And just so you know and if I didn't do this as well my wife would never allow me to go to the Philippines anymore.

**Chairman Parkinson:** At this time, I'd like to recognize Senator Duenas.

**Senator Duenas:** Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and Madame Consul General and I'm sure very capable assistant. Welcome to the 37th Guam Legislature. Mr. Chairman I certainly rise in full support of Resolution 234-37 and Madame Council General. I just want to thank you for your very powerful testimony that you have presented to us and that will obviously become part of the record as we consider this on the floor of the Legislature. I think the issue of support for the Philippines and the continued relations from Guam as well as the United States of America cannot be overstated particularly in this time we know that not only the great history of our relationship but the great challenges that exist now with the Indo Pacific. It cannot once again be overstated in terms of the need to show our unity and our ability to work together on very critical issues and the Philippines. Now as you know Madame Consul General. Once again is entering into so many negotiations and a furthering of the relationship with the United States not only economically but on the security front and so Mr. Chairman once again the timeliness of this resolution, I think is extremely important and relevant and I look forward to supporting it in the floor and I will be requesting to be a co-sponsor as well. You know this is not unprecedented from the Guam Legislature. We have introduced resolutions as well with our other neighbors Taiwan particularly in their relations with regard to health and the World Health Organization to elevate their membership and to advocate so I think Guam has proven that it is a great brother and sister to our

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neighbors but of course the Philippines has always been near and dear to Guam as many of us know. I guess in inclusion as well we know now that there also is a lot of advocacy on the part of all of our branches of government for the Philippine Visa waiver and not only that but in terms of making sure that in Congress we continue to get increase in regard to work related visas as well. We know that the Philippines have consistently been a huge part of Guam's economic you know revolution. If you will in terms of construction and being the strong economy that we are so this resolution I believe will even further State internationally. Particularly on the national stage with our national government that so much advocacy we need to continue going forward on the H2 labor requirements as well to continue to have our brothers and sisters from the Philippines come to Guam and provide great workmanship and things of that nature. I just think that this type of effort is parcel of showing that our commitment and our relationship. So, with that Mr. Chairman I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak once again in favor and humbly request to be a co-sponsor on the floor. Madame Consul General to you and to all of your staff and to your families a very Merry Christmas and may God bless Guam and the Philippines. Thank you.

**Chairman Parkinson:** Thank you to my colleagues and to everyone that testified today. I'm so sorry, I did not see my Colleague Senator Telo Taitague had come in. Senator Taitague you are recognized if you have any questions or statements you'd like to make I apologize I didn't see you come in.

**Senator Parkinson:** That's okay I'm used to you doing that. Good morning, Mr. Chair and thank you and good morning to those who are here to testify Madame Consul General. It's always good to see you again and to your assistant next to you. Thank you for being here to testify in something. I think we have many Filipinos who live on Guam who call Guam home but they also call the Philippines still their home as well and keep their dual

citizenship and we totally have that same type of culture and love for the islands in the Pacific Island and anything we can do to help. We're here to stand beside our brothers and sisters in the Philippines have you had an opportunity though to look at other jurisdictions like FSM, Saipan, and other area people in the region to provide resolutions like this.

**Rosario P. Lemque *Consul General*:** I'm sorry but we have not have had an opportunity to a similar.

**Senator Taitague:** Okay, I think it would be a great idea you know to reach out to our brothers and sisters in the FSM and other like Palau, there are many Filipinos I was just in Palau not too long ago and you need to check out Palau as well. Go ahead please.

**Rosario P. Lemque *Consul General*:** Yes, thank you Senator we're actually handling the consular jurisdiction over the Filipinos in those areas but for as for me, I have not had the opportunity to visit this areas except for Palau when I joined the Ambassador accredited in Palau the Philippine Ambassador who is based in Tokyo. So, we plan of course we service the Filipinos in the FSM and the Marshall Islands and Saipan and we know that there are many concerns that are similar to Guam that this country and territories have similarities with Guam and we also recognize that there's very close relations in with among the islands here in the Marianas so in fact within the Pacific. So, we know that the good relations we are very much interested on how strong the good relations among yourselves are and of course it also o reflects on how well they also take care of our countrymen in the whole region and we appreciate the concern the expressions of support and particularly for this issue on the West Philippine Sea.

**Senator Taitague:** That's good to hear because you know the more that you have to rally around the issues that the Philippines face with other countries. You know moving in their territories the better chance you have to making this worldwide and provide that the real strength that's needed. You know

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a resolution like this simply as one does some good but once you get the whole Pacific Island rallied up and petitions being signed, you have a better opportunity to really make a difference and your voices be heard. So, I do recommend that that it does happen. I wish you the very best and Merry Christmas to your staff and thank you and welcome to Guam Madame. I think we have a golf game coming up soon so Merry Christmas to you. Thank you Mr. Chair.

**Chairman Parkinson:** Thank you Senator, thank you everyone for your statements today as I reflect on this resolution. I'm struck by the statement that the Philippines claim is supported by historical evidence and validated by international law. Why are those two things important those things are important because the historical evidence is the Filipino history. They are tied indelibly to those seas and to say it is separate from them it's like saying my own arm is not part of my body. Guam support is not just a gesture of friendship. It is a testament to the shared values and mutual respect that bind our communities. But what are those values? What shaped those values? because not only am I a Guamanian and Filipino but I'm also an American and I know when I hear the idea of international law. It makes me bristle as an American and I'm sure it must make some people in China bristle too. This idea that our countries could seed control and in some in some ways they feel like they're seeding their sovereignty but maybe I'm naive but I believe in international diplomacy I think we can talk our problems through that we can live in a rules-based order where things are fair and we have ways to resolve our conflicts that don't resolve in horrific armed conflict. These rules and processes are in place by our shared collective memory of two great world wars in our history people that live through those times the greatest generation. They got to see such horror that they created the apparatus that we're living in today. So, that we may never see anything in our lifetimes to match that ever again. That we will never see anything as horrible as those wars but as our older wiser generations pass on to the next

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great mystery that leaves us who were not there. To sometimes forget the lessons of the past. So, I can understand ambivalence from not just China but from the United States itself to not want to follow international law and to choose what's easy because they are strong but if we ever have armed conflict in the Pacific, it will make us all weak. It will hurt people on all sides. Civilians first and foremost. So, while the idea of international law and rules and being refereed by people outside of your country may seem an affront to your sovereignty. I assure you that's not the intention at least that I would ever put forth some resolution like this. Because talking our problems through and avoiding conflict that's how we build long lasting relationships. That's how we build bonds not just between countries but between people. I hope we never see armed conflict in the Pacific and that's why I think it's important to stand up for our friends and our allies and to do the right thing in the time that it needs to be done and that time is now. This is the West Philippine Sea and I want to affirm with the support of my colleagues that it will always be the West Philippines Sea as long as we have anything to say about it. The people of Guam are indelibly tied to the Philippines my grandfather was, he was a young man saved the life of a naval officer and that naval officer offered my grandfather to join the military and come with him to this wonderful island of Guam but in true romantic fashion and he had one little errand to check out before he would go with this officer and that was he proposed to my grandmother and if she didn't say yes he was going to go to Guam and that would have ended up here but many generations later my father went to Guam went to the Philippines and met my mother and they fell in love and I ended up here on Guam anyway. But that just that personal story of mine just goes to show that how deep our ties with the Philippines are that you know even if we missed it a couple generations before my blood and my relationships and my family we still ended up with that Philippine Guam relationship in tie. So, before I go on a lighter note I just want to say hello to my family in the Philippines shout out to my Pandakan people and my family in Iloilo. I want to wish you all a

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Merry Christmas and I hope everybody find finds joy, peace, and happiness in this Christmas season.

**Chairman Parkinson:** With that if there are no further questions or comments this concludes our discussion on Resolution Number 234-37 (LS).

**Chairman Parkinson:** The committee on fire, agriculture, power and energy utilities, public transit, unemployment insurance, and universal health insurance will continue to except written testimony on today's hearing within five business days from today. Which would be mailed to my office at 238 Archbishop Flores Street, Suite 905 of the DNA building in *Hagåtña*. You may also send your written testimony to my office via email senator parkinson@guamlegislature.org. Thank you all for your participation and this hearing on Resolution Number 234-37 (LS) is now concluded and the time is now 9:42. We will take a short recess and come back for the confirmation hearing. Thank you all very much and Merry Christmas to all.

### III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Author hereby reports out **Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**, - "RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES." with the recommendation TO DO ADOPT.



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

**Resolution No. 234-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Roy A. B. Quinata  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES' LEGITIMATE AND HISTORICAL CLAIM TO THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, REAFFIRMING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE INVALUABLE TIES AND COMMON HISTORY BETWEEN GUAM AND THE PHILIPPINES.**

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the West Philippine Sea, a semi-enclosed sea located in the  
4 southwestern part of the South China Sea, holds tremendous strategic, economic, and  
5 environmental significance, not just for its surrounding nations, but for the international  
6 community; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of the Philippines, based on its historical records,  
8 archaeological evidence, and legal instruments, possesses enduring claims over  
9 territories and maritime zones within the West Philippine Sea, notably the Spratly  
10 Islands, Scarborough Shoal, and their adjacent waters; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS),  
2 to which both the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America are  
3 signatories, establishes the legal framework that delineates the rights and  
4 responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, emphasizing the principle  
5 of freedom of navigation, overflight, and the peaceful use of the seas; and

6           **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague,  
7 acknowledging the principles set by UNCLOS, ruled overwhelmingly in favor of the  
8 Philippines, declaring that China's expansive "nine-dash line" claim over the South  
9 China Sea has no legal basis and confirmed the Philippines' sovereign rights over its  
10 exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the West Philippine Sea; and

11           **WHEREAS**, regional stability in the Pacific and the broader international  
12 community is contingent upon the respect for, and adherence to, international law,  
13 including the resolution of territorial and maritime disputes through peaceful means,  
14 without resorting to threat or use of force whereby the attempt to seize the West  
15 Philippine Sea from the Philippines is an act of maritime colonialism,; and

16           **WHEREAS**, Guam is deeply concerned by the increasing environmental  
17 degradation in one of the world's most biodiverse marine ecosystems, where dredging  
18 and construction activities have led to the direct loss of over 3,000 acres of coral reefs,  
19 endangering species dependent on these habitats and affecting fishery resources.  
20 Dredging has increased water turbidity, threatening marine life by blocking sunlight,  
21 affecting photosynthesis in marine plants, and potentially harming fish larvae and other  
22 marine organisms; and

23           **WHEREAS**, the unique geographical position of Guam underscores the  
24 importance of cultivating and nurturing harmonious relations with its neighboring  
25 nations and territories in the Pacific, advocating for peaceful resolutions and mutual  
26 understanding; and

1           **WHEREAS**, a multitude of shared experiences, from trade, education,  
2 healthcare, cultural exchanges, and familial ties, have fostered an environment of  
3 mutual respect, trust, and camaraderie between Guam and the Philippines; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Legislature of Guam, stands firmly in support of the Republic  
5 of the Philippines in its rightful and historic claim to the West Philippine Sea as affirmed  
6 by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague and emphasizes the paramount  
7 importance of upholding international law; now therefore, be it

8           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
9 on behalf of the people of Guam, expressing the support of the people of Guam for the  
10 republic of the Philippines' legitimate and historical claim to the west Philippine sea,  
11 reaffirming the crucial role of international law, and acknowledging the invaluable ties  
12 and common history between Guam and the Philippines; and be it further

13           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
14 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to His Excellency  
15 Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr., President of the Republic of the  
16 Philippines, His Excellency, Jose Manuel "Babe" del Gallego Romualdez, Philippine  
17 Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Enrique A. Manalo, Secretary of  
18 Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, the Honorable Patrick John U.  
19 Hilado, Consul General of the Philippines on Guam and to the Honorable Lourdes A.  
20 Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE      DAY OF 2023.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary