

**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
325-37 (LS)	Sabina Flores Perez	Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands.	2/21/24 12:46 p.m.			2/23/24	Author	4/9/24 2:00 p.m.	4/12/24 12:42 p.m.  As amended by the Author	



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

April 12, 2024

**The Honorable Therese M. Terlaje**

Speaker

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

163 Chalan Santo Papa

*Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

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

**RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 325-37 (LS), As Amended**

*Håfa adai* Speaker Terlaje,

Transmitted herewith is the Author's Report on **Resolution No. 325-37 (LS), As Amended**– Sabina Flores Perez – **Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands.**

*Si Yu'os ma'åse'*,

*Sabina Flores Perez*

Sabina Flores Perez

Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Received:

**April 12, 2024 10:02 a.m.**

*Beatrice Cruz*



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

## **AUTHOR'S REPORT**

### **Resolution No. 325-37 (LS), As Amended by the Author**

**Authored by: Sabina Flores Perez**

**Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands.**



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

February 23, 2024

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

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**  
Legislative Legal Counsel

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

**Subject:** **Referral of Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)**

---

*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. 325-37 (LS)** – Sabina Flores Perez. – “Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.”

Please ensure that the subject Resolution is referred to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, 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.





**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

April 2, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics,  
Research, and Planning

Subject: **1<sup>st</sup> Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research and Planning will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.** The public hearing will take place in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room. The agenda is as follows:

**2:00 p.m.**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org) or via phone at (671) 989-2968, no later than **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, for further guidance.

Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email to [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org), no later than **4:00pm, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 989-2968. 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. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!



Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

**1st Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

1 message

**Office of Senator Sabina Perez** <office@senatorperez.org>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 8:00 AM

April 2, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

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**GovGuam Public Notice Portal**

--  
*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*



**Office of  
Senator Sabina Flores Perez**

37th Guam Legislature • *I Mina'Trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics,  
Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968 | (671) 472-3499

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)

Social Media : [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

--  
To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org](mailto:phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org).

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**2 attachments**



**1st Public Notice .pdf**

169K



**Res. No. 325-37 (LS).pdf**

946K



**Accepting applications for:**

Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Service Advisor, Fuel Truck Driver, Tow Truck Driver, General/Mechanic Helper, Box Truck Driver, Tractor-Trailer Driver, Journeymen Welder, Auto Body Paint Technician, Equipment Operator and Warehouse Operative.

E-mail resumes to [kregis@pacificunlimitedguam.com](mailto:kregis@pacificunlimitedguam.com) or apply in person at 17-3311 Corsair Rd. Tiyán Barrigada, Guam 96913

**APPLY NOW!!**

- 5 - **CARPENTER** with min. 1 yr. exp. \$15.58 PER HR.\*  
Performs carpentry duties for residential, commercial and government projects.
- 5 - **CEMENT MASON** with min. 1 yr. exp. \$15.66 PER HR.\*  
Performs cement mason duties for residential, commercial and government projects.
- 7 - **ELECTRICIAN** with min. 2 yrs. exp. \$18.41 PER HR.\*  
Performs electrician duties for residential, commercial and government projects.
- 3 - **PAINTER** with min. 1 yr. exp. \$14.87 PER HR.\*  
Performs painter duties for residential, commercial and government projects.
- 2 - **REINFORCING METAL WORKER** with min. 1 yr. exp. \$16.73 PER HR.\*  
Performs reinforcing metal worker duties for residential, commercial and government projects.
- 2 - **STRUCTURAL STEEL WORKER** with min. 1 yr. exp. \$15.63 PER HR.\*  
Performs structural steel worker duties for residential, commercial and government projects.

**\*Special wage rate:** Work to be performed on DPRI-funded projects and projects covered by Davis Bacon, Service Contracts Act, and/or Executive Order 14206 will be paid no less than the indicated wage rate but may be paid more where special rates apply.

**Benefits:** Round-trip airfare for off-island hire; Meals and lodging provided @ \$80.00 per week; local transportation from employer's designated lodging facility to/from jobsite; and 10 paid vacation/sick days per year.

The job offer meets all EEO requirements, and initiates a temporary placement. The recruitment associated with this job offer is closely monitored by the Department of Labor. Qualified, available and willing U.S. workers are highly encouraged to apply. Should you qualify for the job and are not hired, you may appeal with the Department of Labor who will independently review matter.

For the complete job duties, apply in person at the American Job Center  
414 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 300 GCIC Building Hagatna, Guam  
Or apply online at [www.hireguam.com](http://www.hireguam.com); Enter Keyword: 2024-053



**SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**  
**Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room**  
**2:00P.M.**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org) or via phone at (671) 989-2968, no later than Friday, April 5th, 2024, for further guidance.

Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagatña, Guam 96910, or via email to [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org), no later than 4:00pm, Tuesday, April 16th, 2024. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 989-2968. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

**APPLY NOW!!**

- 2 - CARPENTER with min. 1 yr. exp. \$15.58 PER HR**  
Constructs, erects, installs and repairs structures and fixtures of wood, wallboard and plywood, including framework. Uses carpenter's hand tools and power tools conforming to local building codes. Reads blueprints, sketches, or building plans to determine type of work required and materials needed. Prepares layout, using ruler, framing square, and calipers. Erects framework for structure and lay subfloor board.
- 3 - CEMENT MASON with min 1 yr. exp \$15.66 PER HR**  
Smooths and finishes surfaces of poured concrete floors, walls, sidewalks, or curbs to specified textures using hand tools or power tools including floats, trowels, and screeds. Signals concrete deliverer to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete. Spreads concrete into inaccessible section of forms using rake or shovel. Levels concrete to specified depth and workable consistency using hand screed and floats to bring water to surface and produce soft topping. Lays concrete blocks and mixes cement using shovel or cement mixing machine.

**Benefits:** Round-trip airfare for off-island hire; Meals and lodging provided @ \$80.00 per week; and local transportation from employer's designated lodging facility to/from jobsite.

The job offer meets all EEO requirements, and initiates a temporary placement. The recruitment associated with this job offer is closely monitored by the Department of Labor. Qualified, available and willing U.S. workers are highly encouraged to apply. Should you qualify for the job and are not hired, you may appeal with the Department of Labor who will independently review matter.

Apply in person at the American Job Center  
414 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 300 GCIC Building Hagatna, Guam  
Or apply online at [www.hireguam.com](http://www.hireguam.com); Enter Keyword: 2024-054

**AVAILABLE JOBS FOR ELIGIBLE U.S. WORKERS**

- 6- CARPENTER with 1 year exp. \$15.58 PER HOUR**  
Construct, erect, install, and repair structures and fixtures of wood, using carpenter's hand and power tools and conforming to local building codes.
- 4 - CEMENT MASON with 1 year exp. \$15.66 PER HOUR**  
Smooth and finishes surfaces of poured concrete floors, walls, sidewalks, or curbs to specified textures, using hand or power tools, including floats, trowels, and screeds.
- 2 - ELECTRICIAN with 1 year exp. \$18.41 PER HOUR**  
Plans layout, installs and repairs of the wiring of electrical fixtures, apparatus and control equipment.
- 1 - PAINTER with 1 year exp. \$14.87 PER HOUR**  
Paint walls, equipment, buildings and other structural surfaces using brushes rollers and spray guns.
- 2 - PLUMBER with 1 year exp. \$17.05 PER HOUR**  
Assemble, install, or repair various pipes and fittings for cold/hot water line and sewer line, plumbing fixtures and plumbing equipment according to specifications or plumbing codes.
- 2 - STRUCTURAL STEEL WORKER WITH 1 YEAR EXP. \$15.63 PER HOUR.**  
Raise, place, and unit iron or steel girders, columns and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks.
- 1 - WELDER with 1 year exp. \$18.87 PER HOUR**  
Use hand-welding, flame-cutting, hand soldering, or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations, or seams of fabricated metal products.

**Benefits:** Roundtrip airfare for off-island hire, food & lodging at \$80.00 per week; local transportation to/from jobsite.

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For COMPLETE job duties, apply in person at the American Job Center  
414 W. Soledad Avenue, Suite 300 GCIC Building Hagatna, Guam  
Or apply online at [www.hireguam.com](http://www.hireguam.com); Enter Keyword: 2024-049



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• Santa Rita - 1/2 Acre \$35K  
• Talofoto - House Lot w/ Sewer. Nearby. \$55K

• Macheche 1/2 acre lot. Reduced to \$100K. Owner Financing Available

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671-687-5863 BRK






# 1st Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

 PRINT

**1st Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9,  
2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**



 **Posted on:** 04/02/2024 08:00 AM

 **Posted by:** Nicky Leann Fernandez, Office Manager

 **Public Hearing Date:** 04/09/2024 02:00 PM

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

 **Division(s):**  
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ ([/notices?division\\_id=265](/notices?division_id=265))

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

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

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

 **Share this notice**

April 2, 2024

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor,  
Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Subject: **1<sup>st</sup> Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

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**2:00 p.m.**

### **Resolution No. 325-37(LS)**

**([https://www.guamlegislature.com/37th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/COR\\_Res\\_37th/Res.%20No.%20325-37%20\(LS\).pdf](https://www.guamlegislature.com/37th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_37th/Res.%20No.%20325-37%20(LS).pdf))** - Relative to

preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at **[office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org)** (**<mailto:office@senatorperez.org>**) or via phone at (671) 989-2968, no later than **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, for further guidance.

Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email to **[office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org)** (**<mailto:office@senatorperez.org>**)

to [smcc@senatorperez.org](mailto:smcc@senatorperez.org) (mailto:[smcc@senatorperez.org](mailto:smcc@senatorperez.org)), no later than **4:00pm, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 989-2968. 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. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 8, 2024

*Transmitted via electronic mail*  
[Chelsa.Muna@doag.guam.gov](mailto:Chelsa.Muna@doag.guam.gov)

Chelsa Muña  
Director  
Guam Department of Agriculture  
163 Dairy Road  
Mangilao, Guam 96910

**Subject: Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai* Director Muna,

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The Committee requests that you or your designee attend the public hearing to present and submit written testimony on the agenda items, and you are welcome to invite other members of your team who will provide valuable input. Please contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org) or via phone for further guidance.

Written testimonies may be submitted in advance via [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org). Should you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (671) 989-2968.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

*Sabina Flores Perez*

Sabina Flores Perez  
Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Attachments (2):      1<sup>st</sup> Public Notice  
                                 Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)



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**Public Hearing Invitation - Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

2 messages

**Nicky Leann B. Fernandez** <nicky@senatorperez.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 8:41 AM

To: Chelsa Muna &lt;chelsa.muna@doag.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Sabina Perez &lt;sabina@senatorperez.org&gt;, Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

*Håfa Adai* Director Muna,

Attached to this email is an invitation from Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson on the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning.

We greatly appreciate your time and attention.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

--

*Saina Ma'åse'*,**Nicky L. Fernandez****Office Manager**

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor, [Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)Email: [nicky@senatorperez.org](mailto:nicky@senatorperez.org)Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)Facebook: [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

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**3 attachments** **Invitation Letter 04.09.24 - DoAG (2).pdf**  
534K **1st Public Notice .pdf**  
169K **Res. No. 325-37 (LS).pdf**  
946K



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 8, 2024

***Transmitted via electronic mail***

[patrick.lujan@dpr.guam.gov](mailto:patrick.lujan@dpr.guam.gov)

Patrick Lujan  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Guam State Historic Preservation Office  
490 Chalan Palasyo  
Agana Heights, Guam 96910

**Subject: Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai* State Historic Preservation Officer Lujan,

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Written testimonies may be submitted in advance via [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org). Should you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (671) 989-2968.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

*Sabina Flores Perez*

Sabina Flores Perez  
Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Attachments (2):      1<sup>st</sup> Public Notice  
                                 Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)



Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

---

**Public Hearing Invitation - Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

1 message

**Nicky Leann B. Fernandez** <nicky@senatorperez.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 8:39 AM

To: "patrick.lujan@dpr.guam.gov" &lt;patrick.lujan@dpr.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Sabina Perez &lt;sabina@senatorperez.org&gt;, Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

*Håfa Adai* State Historic Preservation Officer Lujan,

Attached to this email is an invitation from Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson on the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning.

We greatly appreciate your time and attention.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

--

*Saina Ma'åse'*,

**Nicky L. Fernandez****Office Manager**

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor, [Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)Email: [nicky@senatorperez.org](mailto:nicky@senatorperez.org)Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)Facebook: [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

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**3 attachments** **Invitation Letter 04.09.24 - SHPO (2).pdf**  
535K **1st Public Notice .pdf**  
169K **Res. No. 325-37 (LS).pdf**  
946K





**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 8, 2024

*Transmitted via electronic mail*

[john.burch@galc.guam.gov](mailto:john.burch@galc.guam.gov)

John Burch  
Executive Director  
Guam Ancestral Lands Commission  
590 S. Marine Corps Drive  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

**Subject: Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai* Executive Director Burch,

The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research and Planning will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 09, 2024, 2:00 p.m.** The public hearing will take place in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room. The agenda is as follows:

**2:00 p.m.**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

The Committee requests that you or your designee attend the public hearing to present and submit written testimony on the agenda items, and you are welcome to invite other members of your team who will provide valuable input. Please contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org) or via phone for further guidance.

Written testimonies may be submitted in advance via [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org). Should you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at (671) 989-2968.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

*Sabina Flores Perez*

Sabina Flores Perez  
Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Attachments (2):      1<sup>st</sup> Public Notice  
                                 Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)



Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

---

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1 message

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Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 8:37 AM

To: "john.burch@galc.guam.gov" &lt;john.burch@galc.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Sabina Perez &lt;sabina@senatorperez.org&gt;, Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

*Håfa Adai* Executive Director Burch,

Attached to this email is an invitation from Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson on the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning.

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Please confirm receipt of this email.

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*Saina Ma'åse'*,

**Nicky L. Fernandez****Office Manager**

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor, [Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)Email: [nicky@senatorperez.org](mailto:nicky@senatorperez.org)Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)Facebook: [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

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946K



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 8, 2024

***Transmitted via electronic mail***

[joseph.borja@land.guam.gov](mailto:joseph.borja@land.guam.gov)

Joseph Borja  
Director  
Department of Land Management  
500 S. Marine Corps Drive  
ITC Building  
Tamuning, Guam 96913

**Subject: Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.**

*Håfa Adai* Director Borja,

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*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*

*Sabina Flores Perez*  
Sabina Flores Perez  
Senator, *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

Attachments (2):      1<sup>st</sup> Public Notice  
                                 Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)



Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

---

**Public Hearing Invitation - Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

1 message

**Nicky Leann B. Fernandez** <nicky@senatorperez.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 8:33 AM

To: "Joseph M. Borja" &lt;Joseph.Borja@land.guam.gov&gt;

Cc: Sabina Perez &lt;sabina@senatorperez.org&gt;, Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

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We greatly appreciate your time and attention.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

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*Saina Ma'åse'*,

**Nicky L. Fernandez****Office Manager**

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor, [Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#)Email: [nicky@senatorperez.org](mailto:nicky@senatorperez.org)Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)Facebook: [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

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946K



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

April 7, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics,  
Research, and Planning

Subject: **2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research and Planning will be conducting a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 2:00 p.m.** The public hearing will take place in the Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room. The agenda is as follows:

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Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org) or via phone at (671) 989-2968, no later than **Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**, for further guidance.

Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910, or via email to [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org), no later than **4:00pm, Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 989-2968. 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. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!



Evan San Nicolas &lt;evan@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**2nd Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

1 message

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**Office of Senator Sabina Perez** <office@senatorperez.org>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Sun, Apr 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM

April 7, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Subject: **2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

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**GovGuam Public Notice Portal**

--

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse,*



**Office of  
Senator Sabina Flores Perez**

37th Guam Legislature • *I Mina'Trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics,  
Research, and Planning

Tel: (671) 989-2968 | (671) 472-3499

Location: 163 Guam Congress Building, 2nd Floor *Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

Website: [www.senatorperez.org](http://www.senatorperez.org)


Social Media : [Senator Sabina Flores Perez](#)

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org](mailto:phnotice+unsubscribe@guamlegislature.org).

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**2 attachments**

 **2nd Public Notice .pdf**  
169K

 **Res. No. 325-37 (LS).pdf**  
946K

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**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**GENERAL MANAGER:** Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration (may be foreign equivalent). 60 months of experience in Management. Managing employees' daily performance. Preparing budget for operational expenses. Liaising with vendors and subcontractors on cost effectiveness. Supervise and evaluate the performance of employees on the job site. Travel to Asia, 2-4 times a year.

Send resume to:  
**CK USA GUAM, INC.**  
 P.O. Box 7798 Tamuning, Guam 96931  
 Or email to: [shk06@cksolution.co.kr](mailto:shk06@cksolution.co.kr)

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE TEACHER:** Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems (may be foreign equivalent). For employment located in Saipan, the CNMI, AP Computer Science Teacher to provide theoretical and applied instruction on computer functionality. Instruct students on how computers work, including the basic science and computer science behind their operation and the hardware and software built on those foundations. Integrate competencies, goals, and objectives into lesson plans.

Send resume to:  
**CALVARY INTERNATIONAL MISSION**  
**dba AGAPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
 P.O. Box 10001 PMB 466, Saipan, MP 96950  
 Or email to: [acssaipan@gmail.com](mailto:acssaipan@gmail.com)



**SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024**

**Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room**

**2:00P.M.**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

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Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or via email to [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org), no later than **4:00pm, Tuesday, April 16th, 2024**. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at (671) 989-2968. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via I Liheslaturan Guahan's live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!

**Dededo Municipal Planning Council**

**Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, April 9, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m. Dededo Senior Citizen Center**

**Live on Dededo Mayor's Office Facebook page**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Forum (3 mins per person)
- IV. Review & Approval of Minutes of March 20, 2024
- V. Review & Approval of Financial Report
- VI. Committee Report:
  - a) 734<sup>th</sup> AMS
  - b) NCTS
  - c) USMC
  - d) Sports
  - e) Dededo Veteran's Organization
  - f) Vice Mayor
- VII. Old Business:
  - a) Lencho Park Upgrades -Ongoing sidewalk resurfacing, Pending Basketball/Tennis Courts & restrooms.
  - b) FEMA Public Assistance projects
  - c) Dededo Mayor's Office Golf Tournament - Nov. 7, 2024 - Proceeds will benefit Santa Barbara Fiesta & Dededo Veteran's Organization
  - d) 80th Liberation Queen Search for Candidate
- VIII. New Business:
  - a) Conditional Use application for Lot 1-1, Tract 217 at West Liguana Ave. "C" (Commercial Zone) by applicants Universal Church, Guam & Samuel Periera Macedo. Rep: Frank Roberto.
  - b) Zone change application for Lot No 42-1, Block N/A, Track 534, Machanao from "R-1"(Single-Family Dwelling) to "R-2(Multi-Family Dwelling) to 2-storey duplex for rentals. Applicant: Sonia Wendy Ko, Rep: Guadalupe Mesa.
  - c) Z Request by GTA to construct a antenna 50 feet high on Dededo Buffer Strip Lot 10063-3.
- IX. Members Input
- X. Announcements
  - a) National Take Back Day - DEA & GUANG: Saturday, April 27 @ Dededo Senior Citizen Center from 10 am to 2 pm.
- XI. Adjourn




# 2nd Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

 PRINT

**2nd Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April  
9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**



 **Posted on:** 04/07/2024 08:00 AM

 **Posted by:** Nicky Leann Fernandez, Office Manager

 **Public Hearing Date:** 04/09/2024 02:00 PM

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

 **Division(s):**  
OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ (/notices?  
division\_id=265)

 **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**

April 7, 2024

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson  
Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor,  
Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning

Subject: **2<sup>nd</sup> Notice of Public Hearing: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**

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**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

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Should contact the Office of Senator Sabina ROSA CRUZ at (671) 989-2968. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117 and stream online via *Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed on YouTube. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. We look forward to your participation!



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

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**Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**  
***Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room***

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Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
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*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

*Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room*

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)** – Sabina Flores Perez - Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Cassie Bordallo	self			✓		
✓ Vinessa Deros	self		✓	✓		
Jerry Santos	self					
Anna Agun	self					
✓ ANTONIO SABLAN	CHAMORRO NATPO	✓				
✓ Maria Hernandez	May Hita Likayan	✓				



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
✓ Dominic Flores	Self					
✓ Josh Lawrence	Self					
✓ Rachel Davis	Self					
Ehseo Silvestre	"					
✓ James Leo Wolford	"					
✓ Monaeka Flores	PLSR					



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

*Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room*

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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
✓ Angela Santos				✓		
✓ Tewid Mercedes	Pacificnesian Equities			✓		





**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning


*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
✓ David Cabrera	Talaya Cmb					



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

Public Hearing

Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

*Guam Congress Building, Public Hearing Room*

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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
✓ Melmie Guerrero	self					
Kenneth Guerrero	self					
✓ Lourdes Flores Bejato	Hfz Liheslaturan	✓				



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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
SANTOS, AMANDA H.G.				✓		
IRIARTE, DORIS S.				✓		
IRIARTE, JOHN A.				✓		



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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Cristina Flores U'Brien	Hita Litekyan			✓		[REDACTED]



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NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Camden may	Hita Literyan	✓				
✓ Barbara S.N. Beravande		✓	✓	✓		

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
AND  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
FOR  
MANAGEMENT OF THE RITIDIAN UNIT OF THE GUAM NATIONAL WILDLIFE  
REFUGE, THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BROWN TREESNAKE RESEARCH  
AND RAPID RESPONSE FACILITIES, AND OPERATION OF OVERLAPPING  
SURFACE DANGER ZONES**

**I. PURPOSE**

The Department of the Interior (DOI), through authorities delegated from the Secretary to the Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Director of the U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), enters into this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of the Navy (DON) (jointly, DOI and DON are the Parties), to document the commitments, both individual and collective, of the Parties providing for the establishment and operation of surface danger zones (SDZ) which overlay a portion of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) and the USGS Brown Treesnake Research and Rapid Response (BTS RRR) facilities.

**II. AUTHORITY**

This MOA is hereby made and entered into by and between the Parties under the authority of section 2822 (*Establishment of Surface Danger Zone, Ritidian Unit, Guam National Wildlife Refuge*) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, Public Law 113-291 (hereinafter "FY15 NDAA"), and in accordance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. § 668dd) and the Cooperative Agreements between the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for the establishment and management of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, Guam. This MOA is additionally made and entered into by and between the Parties under the authority of section 316 (*Comprehensive Program for the Eradication of the Brown Treesnake Population from Military Facilities in Guam*) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, Public Law 110-417 ("FY09 NDAA").

**III. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this MOA are to accommodate:

Vinessa Dueñas



April 8, 2024

**Sen. Sabina Flores Perez**  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
*Hagåtña*, Guam 96910

**Re: Resolution 325-37**

Dear Senators,

My name is Vinessa Dueñas, I am a Master's student at UOG and an apprentice to Master Suruhâna Rosalia Fejeran Mateo, lovingly known as "Mama Chai." We practice traditional CHamoru healing arts at Guma' Yo'ânte and I am here to provide testimony on Resolution 325-37. Guma' Yo'ânte sees countless patients everyday. Mama Chai, who is now 88 years old, is happy to serve the community. My mentor is always sacrificing herself for the sake of others. Nothing would make her happier than to be able to keep practicing healing for the people. We see an array of age groups and sicknesses varying from children's congestion, psoriasis, women's health remedies for example, if a woman is having trouble conceiving, diabetes, lung problems, taotaomo'na sickness. Many of these patients are so grateful to Mama for easing their pain and curing them. Litekyan, also known as "Ritidian," hereafter Litekyan, has always been a place of great importance to us in continuing our traditional healing practices. It is a place where, as an apprentice, I have learned a great deal, as it is one of my classrooms.

Litekyan is home to countless endemic and non-endemic flora and fauna. Litekyan is unlike any other place on Guam to forage medicine. Nowhere else on Guam can you find almost all of the medicinal plants in one area. The argument of propagating these plants to another area to "solve the issue" is a major problem which goes against our traditional CHamoru healing ways of foraging for medicines. For generations upon generations, native medicine has been passed down, ensuring the health of the population of the islands. This knowledge is real, I have experienced it for myself and I see it work on the people we treat everyday. We cannot just move the plants and "call it good." The âmot plants are strongest when they thrive in their natural environment, this knowledge has stood the test of time.

Not only that but Litekyan is home to an extremely rare and powerful medicine vital in treating non-communicable diseases that you cannot find anywhere else on this island (that's accessible to the general public).

According to the World Health Organization on the Health of Indigenous Peoples (2023):

“Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 75/168 (2020), 76/148 (2021) and 77/203 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the latter of which reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, and also reaffirms that Indigenous individuals have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services;”

“URGES Member States, taking into account their national contexts and priorities, and the limitations set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 46.2, and in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, with their free, prior and informed consent:

(8) to contribute to capacity-building for Indigenous Peoples so that they may conduct health and environmental monitoring and surveillance in Indigenous territories, with appropriate consideration to the specific conditions of vulnerability, marginalization and discrimination experienced by Indigenous Peoples, and recall their right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including, inter alia, human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines and knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora;”

I humbly come before the Legislature today to beg you, *ekongok pot fabot*, please listen. The health of the environment, the health of the people and the wealth of our cultural knowledge are what's at stake. *Āpas i isao-ta siha* - payment for our sins. If we do not act about the desecration of lands up at Litekyan, we will *all* pay dearly. With our health and with a great loss to our traditional healing practices. By sacrificing our future's, in sacrificing a vast area of medicine unfounded *anywhere else* on Guam. Just in the way that we see the people of Guam plagued with cancerous diseases from countless contaminations in our soils, rivers and oceans, more of this contamination will happen if we allow this to happen.

*Håfa mås malago-ñiha?* How much more would they like to take, everything the sun touches?? Until Guam is unlivable for the civilian population? What will be left for us then?



*Mumuyi i derecho-ta!* - Fight for our rights! *Pot fâbot!* We must stand up now! If we do not stand up and defend Litekyan, we will *all* pay dearly. If we do not see it in this lifetime, which I'm sure we will, our children and our children's children will see it. What will we have left for them then?

We swore on holy words and on our flag of Guam, from the highest of our thoughts and the deepest of our hearts, to the most of our capabilities; to offer *ourselves* to protect and defend our God-given rights:

<p><i>Ginen i mas takhelo' gi Hinasso-ku, i mas takhalom gi Kurason-hu, yan i mas figo' na Nina'siñã-hu, Hu ufresen maisa yu' para bai hu Prutehi yan hu Difende i Hinengge, i Kottura, i Lengguahi, i Aire, i Hanom yan i tano' Chamoru, ni'Irensiã-ku Direchu ginen as Yu'os Tãta. Este hu Afitma gi hilo' i bipblia yan i bandera-hu, i banderan Guãhan.</i></p>	<p>From the highest of my thoughts, from the deepest of my heart, and with the utmost of my strength, I offer myself to protect and to defend the beliefs, the culture, the language, the air, the water and the land of the Chamorro, which are our inherent God-given rights. This I will affirm by the holy words and our banner, the flag of Guãhan!</p>
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*Prutehi i âmot-ta! Prutehi i hinemlo-ta!*

*Saina ma'ãse*

## **The health of Indigenous Peoples**

The Seventy-sixth World Health Assembly,

Recalling that Indigenous individuals have an equal right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as declared by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through resolution 61/295;

Recalling the commitments of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014 to intensifying efforts to reduce rates of HIV and AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and noncommunicable diseases and to ensure their access to sexual and reproductive health, as reflected in resolution 69/2;

Recalling further the United Nations resolutions on Indigenous Peoples and the Outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September 2014;

Recalling the Constitution of the World Health Organization, which recognizes that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity;

Recalling the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including its study on Right to Health and Indigenous Peoples with a focus on children and youth (A/HRC/33/57), as well as taking note of the work of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognizing the contribution that Indigenous Peoples make to these discussions;

Recalling also resolutions WHA62.14 (2009) on reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health, WHA65.8 (2012) that endorsed the Rio Political Declaration on Social Determinants of Health and WHA74.16 (2021) on the Social Determinants of Health;

Recognizing regional WHO activities on the health of Indigenous Peoples;

Recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 75/168 (2020), 76/148 (2021) and 77/203 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the latter of which reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants, and also reaffirms that Indigenous individuals have the right to access, without any discrimination, to all social and health services;

Also recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/2 (2019), entitled “Political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage”, which recognizes the need to tackle health inequities and inequalities within and among countries through political commitment, policies and international cooperation, including those that address social, economic and environmental and other determinants of health;

Recognizing the importance of holding consultations and cooperating in good faith with the Indigenous Peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

Recognizing that the health needs and vulnerabilities of Indigenous Peoples vary as they are heterogenous groups of peoples and live in different environmental and social contexts;

Recalling that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples expressed concern that Indigenous Peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of, inter alia, their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests;

Noting reports of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, according to which life expectancy can be considerably lower for Indigenous Peoples, lack of access to medical services is higher among Indigenous Peoples, and, as to social, economic and environmental determinants of health, Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately subject to poverty, poor housing, cultural barriers, violence, including gender-based violence, racism, experiencing disability, pollution and lack of access to education, economic opportunities, social protection, water and sanitation, as well as appropriate resilience planning for climate change and natural and other emergencies;

Also noting with concern that Indigenous women often experience disproportionately poorer maternal health outcomes and face considerable barriers to accessing primary health care and other essential health care services, with particular risks to young mothers;

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of Indigenous youth, caused by the changing living environments, including social, cultural, economic and environmental determinants;

Recognizing further that the political, social and economic empowerment, inclusion and non-discrimination of all Indigenous Peoples can support and promote the building of sustainable and resilient communities and facilitate addressing social determinants of health and challenges during public health emergencies;

Recognizing also the need to mainstream a gender perspective and support the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at all levels of Indigenous women and girls, and protect their human rights;

Recognizing that Indigenous Peoples are likely to disproportionately experience disability as compared with the general population,<sup>1</sup>

1. URGES Member States, taking into account their national contexts and priorities, and the limitations set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 46.2, and in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, with their free, prior and informed consent:

(1) to develop knowledge about the health situation for Indigenous Peoples through ethical data collection about the health situation for Indigenous Peoples in national contexts with the

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<sup>1</sup> Indigenous Peoples are often likely to experience disability disproportionately as compared with the general population with some research indicating rates as high as 20–33% (IASG Thematic Paper – Rights of Indigenous Peoples/Persons with Disabilities, 2014).

purpose to identify specific needs and gaps in access to and coverage by current physical and mental health services and obstacles in their use, identification of reasons for these gaps and recommendations on how to address them;<sup>1</sup>

(2) to develop, fund and implement national health plans, strategies or other measures for Indigenous Peoples, as applicable, to reduce gender inequality as well as social, cultural and geographic barriers to their equitable access to quality health services, provided in Indigenous languages, including during public health emergencies, and taking a life course approach with a particular emphasis on the reproductive, maternal and adolescent health, while recognizing the Indigenous health practices, as appropriate;

(3) to pay particular attention to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes;

(4) to incorporate an intercultural and intersectoral approach in the development of public policies on the health of Indigenous Peoples that also accounts for equitable opportunities for partaking in participatory platforms, overcoming gender inequality as well as barriers related to geographical remoteness, disability, age, language, information availability and accessibility, digital connectivity and other factors;

(5) to explore ways to integrate, as appropriate, safe and evidence-based traditional and complementary medicine services, within national and/or subnational health systems, particularly at the level of primary health care, and mental health and wellness services;

(6) to adopt an inclusive and participatory approach in the development and implementation of research and development to promote Indigenous health, taking into account their traditional knowledge and practices;

(7) to encourage the attraction, training, recruitment and retention of Indigenous Peoples as health workers, as well as training and capacity-building of human resources to care for Indigenous Peoples with an intercultural approach, including in the context of public health emergencies;

(8) to contribute to capacity-building for Indigenous Peoples so that they may conduct health and environmental monitoring and surveillance in Indigenous territories, with appropriate consideration to the specific conditions of vulnerability, marginalization and discrimination experienced by Indigenous Peoples, and recalling their right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including, inter alia, human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines and knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora;

(9) to address the health needs of Indigenous Peoples, strengthening access to mental health services and care and adequate nutrition, with full consideration to their social, cultural and geographic realities, providing access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of the needed promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative essential health services and strengthening access to immunization in Indigenous territories and for Indigenous Peoples irrespective of where they live;

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<sup>1</sup> See for example, <https://datascience.codata.org/articles/10.5334/dsj-2020-043/>.

(10) to promote basic, accessible and intercultural information and support health promotion and disease prevention in Indigenous communities that are not in voluntary isolation;

2. CALLS ON relevant actors in consultation with Indigenous Peoples, with their free, prior and informed consent:

(1) to engage and support full, effective and equal participation of Indigenous Peoples, through their own representative institutions, in the development, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the implementation, of the relevant health plans, strategies or other measures for Indigenous Peoples, including those related to public health emergencies;

(2) to foster the appropriate funding of research and development related to the health of Indigenous Peoples including through the relevant resources and collaboration, while ensuring that rights related to Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and cultural expressions, and the valuing of Indigenous knowledge systems are respected;

(3) to follow the highest ethical principles when carrying out research and development related to the health of Indigenous Peoples using appropriate culturally diverse consensual approaches and observing the rights of Indigenous Peoples over their traditional lands, territories and resources, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(4) to engage in dialogue and cooperate with relevant sectors with the aim of ensuring that equity guides all policies that address the social and cultural determinants of health which have an adverse impact on Indigenous Peoples, including through ensuring the highest quality, availability and affordability of goods and services essential to their health and well-being, including during public health emergencies, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to develop, for the consideration of the Seventy-ninth World Health Assembly through the 158th session of the Executive Board, a Global Plan of Action for the Health of Indigenous Peoples, in consultation with Member States, Indigenous Peoples, relevant United Nations and multilateral system agencies, as well as civil society, academia and other stakeholders, in line with WHO's Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors, taking a life course approach, with a particular emphasis on the reproductive, maternal and adolescent health, and with a specific focus on those in vulnerable situations, and bearing in mind local context;

(2) to provide technical support, upon request of the Member States, for the development of national plans for the promotion, protection and enhancement of the physical and mental health of Indigenous Peoples, including in the context of public health emergencies;

(3) to propose, in consultation with Member States, strategic lines of action for the improvement of the health of Indigenous Peoples in the development of the fourteenth WHO General Programme of Work.

Ninth plenary meeting, 30 May 2023  
A76/VR/9

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- A. The operation of a live-fire training range complex (LFTRC) on Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field; and
- B. The on-going management of the adjacent GNWR Ritidian Unit by the USFWS.
- C. The on-going operation of the USGS BTS RRR facilities.

#### IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND BACKGROUND

The Parties acknowledge that:

- A. Section 2822 of the FY15 NDAA provides that this MOA shall include measures to maintain the purposes of the Ritidian Unit. The NDAA states:
  - (a) *Agreement to Establish -- "In order to accommodate the operation of a live-fire training range complex on Anderson Air Force Base-Northwest Field and the management of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Interior, notwithstanding the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), may enter into an agreement providing for the establishment and operation of a surface danger zone which overlays the Ritidian Unit or such portion thereof as the Secretaries consider necessary."*
  - (b) *Elements of Agreement -- The agreement to establish a surface danger zone over all or a portion of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge shall include --*
    - (1) *"measures to maintain the purposes of the Refuge; and"*
    - (2) *"as appropriate, measures, funded by the Secretary of the Navy from funds appropriated after the date of enactment of this Act and otherwise available to the Secretary, for the following purposes: "*
      - (A) *"Relocation and reconstruction of structures and facilities of the Refuge in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act."*
      - (B) *"Mitigation of impacts to wildlife species present on the Refuge or to be reintroduced in the future in accordance with applicable laws"*
      - (C) *"Use of Department of Defense personnel to undertake conservation activities within the Ritidian Unit normally performed by Department of the Interior personnel, including habitat maintenance, maintaining the boundary fence, and conducting the brown tree snake eradication program."*
      - (D) *"Openings and closures of the surface danger zone to the public as may be necessary."*

- B. The GNWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) sets forth the following purposes for which the GNWR Ritidian Unit was established (excerpts only):
1. "... to conserve (A) fish or wildlife which are listed as endangered species or threatened species ... or (B) plants ..." 16 U.S.C. § 1534 (Endangered Species Act of 1973).
  2. "... for the development, advancement, management, conservation, and protection of fish and wildlife resources ..." 16 U.S.C. § 742f(a)(4) (Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956).
  3. "... for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds" 16 U.S.C. § 715d (Migratory Bird Conservation Act).
  4. "... suitable for (1) incidental fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, (2) the protection of natural resource, (3) the conservation of endangered species or threatened species ..." 16 U.S.C. § 460k-1 (Refuge Recreation Act).
- C. The Parties share common goals for the recovery of endangered and threatened species, the protection of native flora and fauna, the conservation of unique ecosystems, and the maintenance of native biological diversity on Guam.
- D. The GNWR Ritidian Unit consists of 1218 acres (385 acres of land and 833 acres of submerged land) under the custody and control of the USFWS. The DON reported these lands as excessed to the General Services Administration (GSA) on October 9, 1992, for the express purpose of establishing a National Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian Point. The GSA transferred the land to DOI on July 6, 1993, and the submerged land to DOI on May 17, 1996. The transfer documents refer to 772.1 acres (370.6 acres of land and 401.5 acres of submerged land). However, sonar surveys by NOAA have resulted in a more accurate location of the 30-meter isobath, which is the seaward boundary of the submerged lands. USFWS land records are being updated to reflect this better estimate of the Ritidian Unit acreage.
- E. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed a CCP and Environmental Assessment for the Guam NWR on September 30, 2009. The CCP is intended to guide the management of the Refuge for 15 years.

- F. On April 27, 2012, the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee (SCC) issued a joint statement announcing its decision to adjust the plans outlined in the May 2006 Realignment Roadmap for the relocation of U.S. Marines to Guam. In accordance with the SCC's adjustments, the DoD adopted a new force posture in the Pacific providing for a materially smaller force on Guam. Specifically, the adjustments include reducing the originally planned relocation to Guam of approximately 8,600 Marines and 9,000 dependents to a force of approximately 5,000 Marines and approximately 1,300 dependents.
- G. On August 28, 2015, following preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, the DON issued a Record of Decision selecting Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field as the location for an LFTRC. The LFTRC will ensure the relocating U.S. Marines are organized, trained, and equipped consistent with 10 U.S.C § 5063, satisfy individual live-fire training requirements, and enable the U.S. Government to establish an operational U.S. Marine Corps presence in Guam in accordance with April 27, 2012 Joint Statement of the U.S.-Japan SCC.
- H. LFTRC SDZs will overlay a portion of the GNWR Ritidian Unit. The SDZs are required by Marine Corps Order 3570.1C to ensure the safe operation of the LFTRC at Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field. The SDZ for the multi-purpose machine gun range (MPMG) (the largest and westernmost LFTRC range) overlays the access road to the GNWR Ritidian Unit and existing GNWR facilities used by USFWS and USGS staff. The SDZ overlapping facilities would include GNWR Ritidian Point Visitor Center, USFWS and USGS offices, laboratories and maintenance facilities, USGS animal holding facilities and outdoor animal testing enclosures.
- I. The Marine Corps estimates the LFTRC will be used up to 39 weeks/year and cannot provide any additional scheduling information and timelines until the ranges become operational.
- J. USFWS and USGS have noted they would be unable to meet the purposes of the GNWR Ritidian Unit and conduct the USGS BTS RRR without:
- a. The replacement of facility requirements at the GNWR Ritidian Unit to a location within the Refuge that is not within the SDZs, and;
  - b. DON permanently providing funding for USFWS personnel requirements to account for the additional costs, such as staff inefficiencies, consistent with NDAA 2822(b)(2) caused by the operation of the SDZs.



## V. COMMITMENTS OF THE PARTIES

### A. The Parties together agree:

1. To identify range scheduling Points of Contact (POCs) who will coordinate USFWS, USGS, DON and public access to the GNWR Ritidian Unit; and
2. To carry out the roles and responsibilities assigned to them in this MOA.
3. To compensate for the additional burden driven by operation of the LFTRC and associated SDZs, DON will provide funding to DOI to hire employees and to offset additional costs to manage the GNWR occasioned by operation of the SDZs. The DON and DOI will identify and mutually agree on these costs caused by the DON operation of the LFTRC, and the associated number and role of the employees to be funded by DON. Initially, the DON agrees to provide funding up to \$150,000 in FY22 and up to \$350,000 in FY23 to cover the cost of hiring full time equivalents (FTEs) to address the additional costs caused by the operation of the first four LFTRC ranges. Thereafter, on an annual basis, the DON and DOI will review the costs associated with the operation of the LFTRC at the annual formal range scheduling review (see Section VI below). The review will take into account the extent to which the USFWS is staffed to meet baseline GNWR CCP requirements. The review will be used to make adjustments, if required and mutually agreed upon by the parties, to funding, functions, and processes established in this MOA. The parties envision initial FTEs will focus on range scheduling and law enforcement, with subsequent FTEs focused on scientific or biological functions.

### B. The DOI will:

1. Retain responsibility for the continued operation and management of the GNWR Ritidian Unit;
2. Continue management activities to meet the purposes for which the GNWR Ritidian Unit was established and to meet the 10 goals outlined in the CCP;
3. Continue operation of the USGS BTS RRR on Guam;
4. Provide DON access to the GNWR Ritidian Unit to install and maintain signage at the boundary of the SDZs and conduct any other activities required as part of this MOA;
5. Participate in weekly, quarterly and annual range scheduling meetings hosted by the DON, review and verify quarterly published range schedules, and be responsible for requesting any modifications to the range schedule through the Marine Corps Range Control Office (RCO). The DON-funded USFWS Range Scheduling POC will:
  - a. Acquire a Range Facility Management Support System (RFMSS) account from the DON, and receive training and maintain proficiency on the use of the account;

- b. Provide timely requests for access to the SDZ-encumbered portion of the GNWR Ritidian Unit to the DON;
  - c. Provide timely cancellations of requested access if it is no longer needed to the DON in order to provide opportunity for DON to reschedule use of the range; and
  - d. Coordinate with and represent USGS staff from the USGS BTS RRR efforts within the SDZ encumbered portion of the GNWR Ritidian Unit relative to DON training;
6. Collaborate and support DON efforts to identify, analyze, and implement alternative access to the GNWR Ritidian Unit recreational areas outside the SDZs to support continued public use and minimize access impacts;
  7. Provide public access to beaches, trails, and cultural properties during normal business hours consistent with the CCP and when the LFTRC is not being used and when the USFWS does not otherwise close the GNWR Ritidian Unit for reasons related to its operations; and
  8. Work collaboratively with the DON to complete all necessary consultations in a timely manner to support actions undertaken as a result of the establishment of the SDZs. These actions will include development of alternative beach access routes and construction of replacement administration and research facilities and a visitor center.

C. The DON will:

1. Manage all range operations associated with the LFTRC on Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field;
2. Be responsible for establishing and implementing all range safety regulations required by Marine Corps Order (MCO) 3550.10 (Policies and Procedures for Range and Training Area Management), which will include provisions for public closures of portions of the GNWR Ritidian Unit while the ranges are in use.
  - a. Coordinate with DOI when situations arise in which it becomes necessary for DOI personnel to exercise their law enforcement authority within the GNWR Ritidian Unit in support of DON's use of the LFTRC.
  - b. Supply, install, maintain, and replace signs and other SDZ barrier controls within the GNWR Ritidian Unit that are required to meet the range safety standards in MCO 3570.1C (Range Safety).
3. In accordance with MCO 3550.10, establish a range scheduling process. Specifically,
  - a. Establish the training schedule for the LFTRC. The DON will work closely with DOI to accommodate access requests to the area encompassed by the SDZs prior to establishing the schedule;
  - b. Host range scheduling meetings:
    - i. Weekly meetings between the RCO and the designated DOI range scheduling POC to review the upcoming range schedule for the next three

- (3) months. At this meeting, DOI access requests will be reviewed and expected LFTRC down-time identified;
      - ii. Host quarterly range scheduling meetings;
      - iii. Host an annual range scheduling meeting to produce a general use and access schedule and adjust range scheduling coordination processes as needed;
    - c. Allow the DOI range scheduling POC access to the daily operational range schedule via RFMSS; and
    - d. If last minute cancellations/changes in the training schedule occur and portions of the GNWR Ritidian Unit under the SDZs can be opened for access, the RCO will notify DOI range scheduling POC.
  - 4. Endeavor to provide the maximum practicable access to the GNWR Ritidian Unit, consistent with the accomplishment of training requirements;
  - 5. Provide the USGS BTS RRR 24/7 access to the 5-hectare Closed Population Facility on Northwest Field, located behind the range and outside the SDZs;
  - 6. Build permanent replacement office, visitors' area, maintenance, research facilities, and any other facilities DON and DOI agree are commensurate with those impacted by the SDZs. Construction of permanent facilities must be initiated one year prior to live fire training commencing on the MPMG. The exact scope of new facilities required will be determined based on a joint review of existing facility options as well as the required need.
    - a. Prior to construction and use of new facilities, DON will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, among others;
    - b. If permanent facilities are not completed when training on the MPMG commences, DON will provide adequate temporary facilities for the Refuge and BTS functions.
    - c. In order to minimize adverse effects to designated critical habitat on the Refuge from construction of the new permanent facilities, DON will demolish the existing DOI facilities, remove demolition debris, and prepare the site for restoration and regeneration. Preparation of the site by the DON will consist of clearing and grading, delineation of the habitat area, and an initial planting of native vegetation including the translocation of native plants from the new facilities construction area or from DON nursery stock (if available). Once site preparation is complete, habitat management will be the responsibility of DOI. Both DON and DOI recognize that this conservation measure will be linked to the DON proposed action for construction of new permanent DOI facilities within the Refuge.

- d. Upon completion, DON will transfer the permanent facilities to DOI via execution of a DD Form 1354, and have no further responsibility for these DOI facilities. Thereafter, DOI will assume full responsibility for the facilities, including utilities, maintenance and upkeep.
7. Identify and construct alternative access to the recreational portion of the GNWR Ritidian Unit outside the SDZs to support continued public use consistent with the purposes of the Refuge and the LFTRC.
  - a. Prior to construction and implementation of the alternative access, DON will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as described above in C(6)(a).
  - b. DOI agrees to make available Refuge land at no cost to DON and facilitate approvals consistent with C(6)(a) in the siting and construction of the alternative access.

## VI. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The Marine Corps RCO and the designated DOI range scheduling POC will maintain open and continuous communication, including weekly, quarterly, and annual range scheduling meetings, as described under C(3)(b). As part of the annual range scheduling meeting, the DON and DOI will review the functionality and efficiency of the processes set forth in this MOA. The Parties will use these meetings to identify any problems and make appropriate adjustments. This may include adjustments to scheduling procedures, DON funded DOI positions and inefficiencies, and funding amount.

## VII. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- A. The Parties shall make every effort to resolve any disagreements in carrying out actions under this MOA through staff-to-staff coordination, discussions, and information-sharing. The Parties shall attempt to resolve any disputes requiring action at the staff level as quickly and effectively as possible. If the Parties and their immediate supervisors are unable to resolve an issue, in a timeframe and manner necessitated by the dispute, the Parties commit to the following protocol for resolving the dispute at the lowest level possible. Use of this protocol includes instances where a Party believes there is a default in the obligations owed pursuant to this MOA by the other Party.
  1. Local Level Resolution Group: If a disputed issue cannot be resolved by the Parties' Primary POCs, the highest-ranking DON, FWS, and USGS official on Guam, with authority over the issues subject to the dispute, will attempt to find resolution to the dispute at the local level.
  2. Regional Level Resolution Group: If a resolution at the local level is unsuccessful, the issue will be elevated to either the Chief of Naval Operations

(appropriate designation) if a Navy Issue, or Headquarters Marine Corps (Installation & Logistics) if a Marine Corps issue, and to the Regional Directors of FWS and USGS or their designee.

3. National Level Resolution Group: If a resolution at the regional level is unsuccessful, the issue will be elevated to the National Level Resolution Group, comprised of, at a minimum, a representative from the DON Secretariat, the FWS Director or his/her designee, and the USGS Director or his/her designee, for final resolution.
- B. The Parties agree the use of this Resolution Group process, as established in Section VII. A. of this MOA, is to ensure all disputes arising under this MOA are resolved in a timely manner. All requests for a dispute resolution at any level should include:
1. A concise summary of the issues in dispute and decisions that need to be made;
  2. A statement of each of the Parties' position on each disputed issue;
  3. All appropriate supporting rationale and documentation necessary for reaching a decision, including a copy of the MOA with provisions relevant to the dispute highlighted; and
  4. A brief chronology of any actions already taken to resolve the dispute.
- C. Resolution of disputes should be pursued as quickly as possible, and elevated to the next level as soon as it becomes apparent that the dispute will not be resolved at the level then reviewing the dispute. In no event should a review level take more than 30 days seeking to reach resolution of a dispute.

#### VIII. MODIFICATIONS, INTERPRETATIONS, ENFORCEABILITY AND TERMINATION

- A. Changes, modifications and/or amendments to this MOA may be made at any time upon mutual written consent of the Parties. With regard to the Parties, no oral statement by any person and no written statement by anyone other than the undersigned, or an authorized representative as designated in writing, shall be interpreted as modifying or otherwise affecting the terms of this MOA.
- B. This MOA is not intended to nullify or supersede any existing agreement between or among the Parties. Agreements that have been previously executed for DOD and DOI actions on the Ritidian Unit on the island of Guam shall continue to apply for the circumstances for which they were developed.

C. The Parties agree this MOA is limited to the authority set forth in section 2822 of the FY15 NDAA, does not expand or alter the scope of the Parties' respective authorities, and shall not be construed to create any legal obligation on the part of either agency or any private right or cause of action for or by any person or entity.

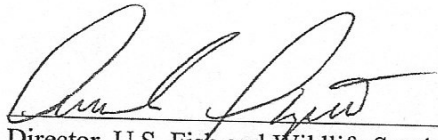
D. Performance under this MOA by the Parties is dependent upon lawful appropriation, availability, and allocation of funds by proper authorities. Nothing herein shall constitute nor be considered to constitute an obligation or expenditure of funds in advance of or in excess of a proper appropriation by Congress of the United States or otherwise be in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. § 1341 et seq.

E. Except as otherwise required by law, any documents or data exchanged between the Parties will not be released to a third party unless the designated representative of the Party that generated the document or data approves the release. The Parties agree to consult with each other prior to the release of any such documents or data pursuant to such lawful authority, or refer such documents and data to the appropriate Party for the release determination if permitted under the relevant legal authority.

F. Termination of the MOA

1. The MOA can only be terminated by mutual agreement of the Parties.

IX. SIGNATORIES

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of the Interior

Date: 5/14/2020

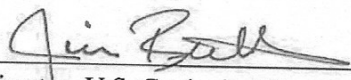
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment)  
Department of the Navy

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Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of the Interior

 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 14 May 20  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment)  
Department of the Navy

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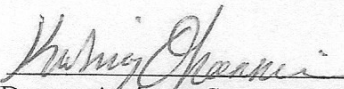
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Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Department of the Interior

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director, U.S. Geological Survey  
Department of the Interior

 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/14/2020  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment)  
Department of the Navy



My name is Josephine Ong, a Filipina scholar and former resident of Sinahãña. I am writing today to testify in favor of Resolution 325-37, which would provide an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities. As a research fellow for Dartmouth College and scholar that has consulted with the National Park Service's Pacific West Division, I am appalled at the Navy's lack of robust public engagement and consideration for cultural and historical sites at Ritidian.

The Navy's plans to relocate culturally and environmentally significant lands for the sake of a 700-acre U.S. Marine Live Fire Training Complex would further displace CHamorus that have long protected and relied on Ritidian's lands and waters. The relocation is not a form of protection, not when it leaves Ritidian's original landowners, *yo'ãmtẽ 'siha* and *peskãdot 'siha* without the means of livelihood, sustenance, and cultural identity that, too, impact Guãhan's greater community. The Navy's intended location would further CHamorus' systematic dispossession and displacement, that began with the post-World War II military build-up, and is continuing through Camp Blaz's construction.

Pollution of the Northern Lens Aquifer would also impact Filipinos, many of whom serve as cheap and exploitable sources of construction labor. Our safety and security is tied with that of CHamorus. As a Filipina who grew up in Guãhan, I follow CHamoru protectors' call to stop the military's continuous acts of pollution and destruction. I strongly implore the Guam Legislature to pass Resolution 325-37 to display to the Governor and the Navy the importance of caring for Guãhan's lands and waters. It is time to protect- not destroy and displace- Ritidian and the sacred sites it holds.



Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families**

29 messages

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**Maria Hernandez May** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:25 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult hâyun lågu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'ámte will be cut off from accessing rare ámot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Maria

Gu

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**Josh Laurente** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:42 PM

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Josh

Gu

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**Cassie Bordallo** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:43 PM

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Cassie

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Lily Bordallo <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:44 PM

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Lily

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**Lily Bordallo** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:45 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Jonathan Sablan** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 9:45 PM

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Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.  
Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Jonathan

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**Eliza Manglona** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 4, 2024 at 10:11 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult hâyun lågu tree; abbabang or



Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

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Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Eliza

Gu

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Hannah Soto <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 12:45 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Hannah  
Anasco

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**Kara Schwarz** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 7:34 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Kara

Toni Brooks <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 8:57 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'àse'

Toni  
Gu

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Nicole DeLisle Dueñas <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 9:46 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Nicole

Gu

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**Dylan Sablan** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 9:47 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Dylan

Gu

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**Barbara SN Benavente** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 9:52 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Barbara SN



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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.  
Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Lisa  
California

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**Atisa Marie Junio** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 10:01 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Atisa Marie

Gu

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**Amber Benavente** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 10:02 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult hâyun lågu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'åmte will be cut off from accessing rare åmot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Amber

Gu

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**Barbara SN Benavente** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 10:23 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

My name is Barbara "Bobbie" SN Benavente. I writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges you, Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, and Congressman James Moylan to ensure that a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities is outside of the "Refuge." As I understand, current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge".

This proposed relocation no doubt would cause again, irreversible damage to the land and special parts of of our CHamoru/Guahan history and heritage and, as importantly, further

disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

The time is NOW to be all in with support for the original landowners of Litekyan/Guahan; and without further delay. The time is NOW, to do what is right.

Support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate.

A decision was made to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range and yet never considered returning this land to the original landowners' families? Why weren't they afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could rightfully return home?

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex. It is destructive and harmful to our environment and negatively impacts our culture and values. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

Again, as repeatedly stated I've time:

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult håyun lågu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'åmte will be cut off from accessing rare åmot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

We all must take ownership and responsibility on our lands; on this earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

BARBARA "Bobbie" SN BENAVENTE

Resident of Dededo

Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother

Barbara SN

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**Vanessa Story** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 10:46 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; âga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guâhan's last remaining adult hâyun lâgu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'ámte will be cut off from accessing rare ámot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Vanessa

Gu

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**Aaron Santos** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 10:58 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

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Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Aaron

Gu

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Hannah Villagomez Sablan <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 11:48 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an



insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Hannah

Gu

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Isa Rehana Flores <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 12:50 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

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-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Isa Rehana

Gu

Anastasia Gschwend <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 1:03 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.  
Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Anastasia  
California

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Justin Benavente <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 1:03 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Justin

Gu

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**Anthony D Duenas** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 2:05 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Anthony D

Gu

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**Marinna Julian** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 2:20 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Marinna

Gu

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

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-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.  
Si Yu'os Ma'àse'

Josephine  
California

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**Rita Edwards** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 3:46 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Rita

Gu

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**Robert Babac** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 4:10 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Robert  
Gu

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April S.N. Swartz <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Fri, Apr 5, 2024 at 5:04 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

April San Nicolas Swartz

April S.N.

Nevada



Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families**

1 message

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**Paige Reves** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Sat, Apr 6, 2024 at 2:06 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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AS A DESCENDANT OF A FAMILY THAT WAS DISPLACED FROM SUMAI AFTER THE IMMENSE LOSS FROM THE WAR, preserving and protecting our island resources, cultural context and abundant homeland in perpetuity remains a central charge in all I do.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Paige

Washington



Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families**

1 message

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**Tewid Meresbang** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Sun, Apr 7, 2024 at 6:25 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Tewid

Gu





Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**In. Solidarity with the Ritidian families**

1 message

**Moñeka DeOro** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Sun, Apr 7, 2024 at 10:23 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Moñeka

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Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

**Resolution 325-37**

1 message

**RYAN SALAS** <[REDACTED]>

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 3:56 PM

To: office@senatorperez.org

Håfa Adai Senådot Perez,

Ti ya'hu este na resolution, sa ti maolek este para i taotao-ta yan I isla-ta.

Dikike' i isla-ta esta. Sangåni i militåt, busta i babårias-ñiha.

Na'i tåtte' i tano-ta, put fabot.

Man gai respetu!

Si Yu'os ma'åse'.

Biba CHamoru! Biba Guåhan! Biba Marianas! 🇺🇲 🇻🇮 🇵🇸

Kon Respetu,

**“Sågue” - Ryan Salas**

**Sågue Vb. Assist, support. Sågue ham gi oran nisisidåt. Assist us during our time of need.**



Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**Re: Clarification on Resolution 325-37 Testimony**

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RYAN SALAS [REDACTED]

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 8:42 PM

To: J [REDACTED]

Cc: Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

Dispensa.

I support the resolution urging the Gov and Congressmen to find a different location for the refuge center outside of the refuge.

Let's work on returning Litekyan and all US military lands be returned to Guåhan & her people.

Si Yu'os ma'åse'

Kon Respetu,

**"Sågue" - Ryan Salas**  
[REDACTED]

**Sågue Vb. Assist, support. Sågue ham gi oran nisisidåt. Assist us during our time of need.**

On Apr 10, 2024, at 3:45 PM, Julia Faye Munoz <julia@senatorperez.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]



(VIEW DOWN TO THE FACILITY AT RITIDIAN FROM THE BACK OF THE MACHINE GUN RANGE.)

**The existing facility at Ritidian is located within the SURFACE DANGER ZONE for the multi-purpose machine gun range on the Live Fire Training Range Complex. The Navy plans to relocate the existing facilities outside of the safety buffer area but still within the “Refuge.”**



(MAP FROM PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT MEMO, APRIL 2023)

**Camp Blaz is assessing environmental impacts of the proposed construction and infrastructure of replacement facilities and a new access road. The surveys take place from March 25 through June. The assessment will be released this summer.**







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**Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families**

9 messages

**Matthew Camacho** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 2:13 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult hâyun lågu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'ámte will be cut off from accessing rare ámot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Matthew

Gu

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**Mina Flores-Cantrell** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 1:19 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Mina

Arkansas

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Aidan Moore <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 5:46 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Aidan

Washington

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Valerie King <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 6:43 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Valerie

Gu

Ryan Salas <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 2:01 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.  
Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Ryan  
Gu

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aprilcolitoy@gmail.com <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 4:42 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

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Isa Arriola <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 6:42 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Isa

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**Analyn Palugod** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Thu, Apr 11, 2024 at 10:22 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Analyn

Gu



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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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**Gamboa Valerie** <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 10:27 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Gamboa

Gu



Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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**Remember Chamoru Values! Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families**

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Teresa Laguana &lt;noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org&gt;

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 10:46 PM

[REDACTED]

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Teresa

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Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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Austin Ringelstein &lt;noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org&gt;

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 5:53 AM

[REDACTED] m

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a Veteran Naval Officer who used to be stationed in Guam (now an Archaeologist, writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." When I lived in the island from 2008 to 2010, I marveled at the beauty of the protected areas of the island. As an Archaeologist who has a special understanding of Indigenous people's relationships with the land, the water, and cultural heritage, I strongly oppose further destruction of habitat for military buildup at the expense of Chamorro people. It is not only destructive, it is dehumanizing.

Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

Please note that support for this measure does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Live Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo', which the Refuge facilities are being moved to accommodate. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowners' families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

I vehemently oppose the firing range complex for its harmful environmental and cultural impacts. According to the Navy's own studies, Tailalo' (Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options.

-The LFTRC is being built over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), a precious resource that provides our island community with 85% of our fresh drinking water. Up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired and more than 400 grenades will be exploded over the aquifer each year, threatening our primary water source as well as surrounding ocean areas.

-Fifteen endangered species call this land home, including the sihek or Guam Micronesian kingfisher, which is extinct in the wild and in captivity; åga, or the Mariana crow, ko'ko', or Guam rail; fanihi, or Mariana fruit bat; Guåhan's last remaining adult hâyun lågu tree; abbabang or Mariana eight-spot butterfly; three species of tree snail and six native plants. For some species that will eventually be reintroduced, the land must remain pristine for them to thrive.

-High levels of lead were detected in soil samples taken adjacent to the U.S. military's Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O'ahu, Hawai'i, some with up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area. Ritidian must be spared the same fate.

-The Guam Fishermen's Co-op has testified against the firing range, opposing the Surface Danger Zone extending three miles out into the ocean, cutting off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters.

-Yo'ámte will be cut off from accessing rare ámot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicine cultural practices.

These are just a few of the many impacts that our community stands firm against.

Our responsibility on earth is to stand for a cause such as this that will ensure that our descendants have a future, that they have a life, that they have access to clean drinking water and all the resources they need to live fully and to thrive. This cause is one of protection; it is one of protecting generations to come.

Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'áse'

Austin Ringelstein

Austin

California





Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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Lauren Taijeron &lt;noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org&gt;

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 6:09 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Si Yu'os Ma'āse'

Lauren

Hawaii



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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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Alexander White <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 6:08 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Alexander

California



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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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natalie bejado <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 2:40 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

natalie

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Office of Senator Sabina Perez &lt;office@senatorperez.org&gt;

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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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Amanda Dedicatoria &lt;noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org&gt;

Tue, Apr 9, 2024 at 9:27 AM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

I am a concerned citizen writing in support of Resolution 325-37, which urges Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Congressman James Moylan to find a different site for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its related facilities outside of the "Refuge." Current plans would move the visitor's center to another area within the "Refuge," a move that would cause irreversible damage to the land and special parts of our history and heritage, as well as further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts advocating for the right to return as stewards of the land.

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Protect Ritidian. Return the land to make it right.

Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Amanda

Gu





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## Protect Ritidian and Justice for the Ritidian Families

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Ji Hye Choi <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>

Mon, Apr 8, 2024 at 4:17 PM

Senator Sabina Perez,

Buenas yan Hafa Adai Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, Lt. Gov Joshua Tenorio, and Senators of the 37th Guam Legislature:

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Si Yu'os Ma'âse'

Ji Hye

Gu



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature*

**AUTHOR'S REPORT DIGEST**

**I. OVERVIEW**

Resolution No. 325-37 (LS) was introduced on February 21, 2024, and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning on February 23, 2024.

The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning convened a public hearing on Resolution No. 325-37 (LS) on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 2:22 p.m..

**Public Notice Requirements**

Public Hearing notices were published in the Guam Daily Post, Posted on the Government of Guam Public Notices Portal, and disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, and again on Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, fulfilling the 5-Day Notice and 48 Hour Notice of the Open Government Law requirements respectively.

**Senators Present**

Senator Sabina Flores Perez  
Chris Barnett  
Senator Telo T. Taitague  
Joanne Brown  
Senator Roy A.B. Quinata

*Committee Chairperson*  
*Committee Member*  
*Committee Member*  
*Legislative Member*  
*Legislative Member*

**Oral Testimony**

Vinessa Dueñas  
Antonio Sablan  
Maria Hernandez May  
Joshua Laurente  
Rachel Davis  
Monaeka Flores  
Angela Santos  
Amanda Cruz Leon Guerrero Santos  
Tewid Meresbang  
David Cabrera  
Melanie Guerrero  
Lourdes Flores Bejado  
Christina Flores-LeBrun  
Barbara Benavente  
Dominic Flores  
James Wolford  
Camden May

*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
*Prutehi Litekyan Save Ritidian*  
*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
*Pacificnesian Equities*  
*Community Member*  
*Community Member*  
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*Community Member*  
*Community Member*



## OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guahan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

## II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The public hearing was Called-to-Order at 2:22 p.m.

**Author Senator Sabina Flores Perez**, *Chairperson: Håfa adai*, sorry for the technical difficulties. The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, Statistics, Research, and Planning is calling this public hearing to order. It is Tuesday, April 9, 2024. The time is now 2:22 p.m.

In compliance with Open Government Law, notices of today's hearing were published in the Guam Daily Post, provided by email to senators, stakeholders, local media, and posted in the Government of Guam Public Notices website on Tuesday, April 2nd for the 5-day notice, and Sunday, April 7th for the 48-hour notice.

I'd like to acknowledge my colleagues that are here today, Senator Quinata and Senator Taitague. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'.*

The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the following agenda item to receive testimony on Resolution 325-37(LS), sponsored by Senator Sabina Flores Perez, relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities, pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Interior and the Department of Navy, in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.

The rules of conduct are as follows:

- Those called to testify will be in order of the government agencies, followed by those who reserved in advance with my office before April 5th, followed by those who signed up on the sign-in sheet.
- Please ensure that your written comments are provided to my staff so we can disseminate them as well as include them in the Committee report.
- Prior to speaking, please state your name, position, if relevant, for recordkeeping purposes.
- Senators will be given an opportunity to ask questions of the panel.
- Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and nature of the agenda. Personal inference as to character or motive of any senator or individual testifying is not permitted.

Now to begin our agenda.

I'd like to make some opening comments before we invite the public for their testimony. Resolution 325-37(LS) calls for the preservation of culturally and environmentally significant sites of Litekyan, relative to the planned relocation of the visitor center, as said earlier. The proposed



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Chairperson

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and Statistics, Research, and Planning

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relocation would further disturb the habitat and cultural sites of Litekyan, a sacred site undergoing severe devastation due to the operation of the live fire training range complex and other military acts.

Thus, Resolution 325-37(LS) calls for the Department of Navy and Department of Interior to identify an alternative location that is federally controlled, disturbed, and outside the surface danger zones of the live fire training range complex. Ultimately, Resolution 325-37(LS) aims to expediently mitigate the adverse effects of the center's federal relocation on Chamorro ancestral lands.

Given the series of federal actions that resulted in the construction of the live fire training range and the May 2020 Memorandum of Agreement, Resolution 325-37(LS) offers an urgent stopgap measure to protect a portion of Litekyan in the immediate capacity of this Legislature. Litekyan is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Marianas Archipelago.

The proposed relocation of the Refuge Center furthers this unnecessary environmental and cultural devastation for lands that can remain intact. Relocation to disturb federally occupied lands that do not further infringe upon the rights of ancestral landowners is essential in minimizing the destructive consequences of this center's relocation. With Resolution 325's purpose in mind, this Body ultimately defers to the recommendations, will, and ownership of the ancestral landowners of Litekyan.

Furthermore, this body recognizes the authority and intent of Article 10, Chapter 68, Title 21 of the Guam Code Annotated, relative to the Ritidian Point Land and other laws recognizing U.S. federal government seizure of lands belonging to the CHamoru people. Resolution 325-37(LS) acknowledges the ancestral landowners' dispossession of Litekyan. This resolution's reference to the Ritidian Wildlife Center does not serve as an agreement to the federal government's occupation or designation of Litekyan as a wildlife refuge.

The federal possession of Litekyan and other sites in the name of national security or environmental conservation has disenfranchised CHamoru ancestral landowners and interrelatedly fails to uphold the mission of 'environmental protection' expressed by the Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

True remediation and justice for Litekyan and the CHamoru people lies in the restoration of ancestral landowners' rights to their lands, territories, and resources.

Research and analyses by experts and organizations such as the United Nations stress the inseparability of Indigenous rights and environmentalism. As a part of its call to action, Resolution 325-37(LS) acknowledges this relationship in referencing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the statement provided by the January 2021 mandates of U.N. Special Rapporteurs to the United States.

In addition to these materials, various reports, mechanisms, and experts recognize indigenous peoples to hold deep values, traditional knowledge, and ties to their lands and waters that



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culminates in environmental stewardship. Without the full recognition of CHamoru ancestral landowners to their indigenous rights, territories, and resources, environmental preservation and the holistic welfare of our Mariana Islands cannot be achieved.

Thus, our people's advocacy for the protection of our environment, cultural heritage, and rights is imperative to resolving the devastating consequences of colonization and militarization. The full recognition of our self-determination is key to safeguarding our lands, territories, and resources. As our people continue our longstanding quest for self-determination, this resolution aims to provide a short-term solution, protecting a concerned portion of Litekyan until our rights are fully recognized.

So, for the record, we sent invitation letters to the Director of the Department of Agriculture, the State Historic Preservation Officer, Mr. Patrick Lujan, Executive Director of Ancestral Lands, Mr. John Burch, and Director of the Department of Land Management, Director Joseph Borja. We will follow up with them in regards to testimony regarding information, as well as any kind of perspective that they can provide. As of 1:30 p. m. today, we received written testimonies in support of this resolution.

Maria Hernandez May, Josh Laurente, Cassie Bordallo, Lily Bordallo, Jonathan Sablan, Eliza Manglona, Hannah Soto, Kara Schwarz, Toni Brooks, Dylan Sablan, Nicole DeLisle Dueñas, Barbara Benavente, Lisa Tenorio, Atisa Marie Junio, Amber Benavente, Vanessa Story, Erin Story, Hannah Villagomez Sablan, Isa Rehana Flores, Anastasia Gschwend, Justin Benavente, Anthony Dueñas, Marinna Julian, Josephine Ong, Rita Edwards, Robert Babac, April Swartz, Paige Reyes, Tewid Meresbang, Moñeka De Oro, Natalie Bejado, Ji Hye Choi, Masakåda Collective, Elsa Stamatopoulou, Valerie Gamboa, Kylie Akiona, Austin Ringelstein, Alexander White, Lauren Tajeron, Amanda Dedicatoria, and Teresa Laguana. We're still receiving testimonies and support. At this time, I'd like to call those that have come here to testify on Resolution 325-37(LS), and when I call your name feel free to come up, or you may choose not to as well.

Cassie Bordallo, Vinessa Dueñas, Jerry Santos, Anna Aguon, Antonio Sablan. Feel free to come to the table if you want to provide testimony. Maria Hernandez May, Dominic Flores, Josh Laurente, Rachel Davis. Elisa Silverio, James Wolford, Monaeka Flores, Angela Santos, Tewid Meresbang, and then we have David Cabrera, Melanie Guerrero, Kenneth Guerrero, and Lourdes Bejado. Feel free to come to the front, and we'll call you in order of those who signed up. Vinessa Dueñas, you're recognized, and thank you for being here.

**Vinessa Dueñas, Community Member:** Thank you. *Håfa Adai*, my name is Vinessa Dueñas, I am a master's student at UOG and an apprentice to the Master *Suruhåna* Rosalia Fejeran Mateo, lovingly known as Mama Chai. We practice traditional CHamoru healing arts at *Guma' Yo'åmte*, and I'm here to provide testimony in support of Resolution 325- 37. *Guma Yo'åmte* sees countless patients every day. Mama Chai, who is now 88 years old, is happy to serve the community of Guam. My mentor is always sacrificing herself for the sake of others.



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Nothing would make her happier than to be able to keep practicing healing for the people. We see an array of age groups and sicknesses varying from children's congestion, psoriasis, women's health remedies, for example, if a woman is having trouble conceiving, diabetes, lung problems, even *taotaomo'na* sickness, and I can vouch that there are people in this room who have been treated by Mama Chai and I. Many of these patients are so grateful to Mama Chai for easing their pain and curing them.

Litekyan, also known as Ritidian- hereafter Litekyan- has always been a place of great importance to us in continuing our traditional healing practices.

It is a place where, as an apprentice, I have learned a great deal, as it is one of my classrooms. Litekyan is home to countless endemic and non-endemic flora and fauna. Litekyan is unlike any other place on Guam to forage medicine. Nowhere else on Guam can you find almost all of the medicinal plants in one area.

The argument of propagating these plants to another area to solve the issue is a major problem which goes against our traditional CHamoru healing ways of foraging for medicine. For generations upon generations, native medicine has been passed down, ensuring the health of the population of the Mariana Islands. This knowledge is real, and I have experienced it for myself, and I see it work on the people we treat every day. We cannot just move the plants and call it good. The *âmot* plants are strongest when they thrive in their natural environment.

This knowledge has stood the test of time. Not only that, but Litekyan is home to an extremely rare and powerful medicine, vital in treating non-communicable diseases, that you cannot find anywhere else on this island, that's accessible to the general public.

According to the World Health Organization on the Health of Indigenous Peoples and recalling the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the rights of indigenous peoples, of which reaffirms that indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants. It then urges member states to contribute to capacity building for indigenous peoples, so that they may recall their right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage and cultural knowledge.

I humbly come before the Legislature to beg, *ekungok put fâbot*, 'please listen.' The health of the environment, the health of the people, and the wealth of our cultural knowledge are what's at stake. *Âpas i isao-ta siha*, 'payment for our sins.' If we do not act about the desecration of lands up at Litekyan, we will all pay dearly with our health and with a great loss to our traditional healing practices, by sacrificing our futures and sacrificing a vast area of medicine unfounded anywhere else on Guam.

Just in the way that we see the people of Guam plagued with cancerous diseases from countless contaminations in our soils, rivers, and oceans, more of this contamination will happen if we allow this to happen. *Hâfa mâs malago'-ñiha?* 'How much more would they like to take?' Everything the sun touches? Until Guam is unlivable for the civilian population, what will be left for us then?



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*Mu'muyi i direcho-ta*, 'fight for our rights,' *put fãbot*. We must stand up. If we do not stand up and defend Litekyan, we will all pay dearly.

If we do not see it in this lifetime, which I'm sure we will, our children and our children's children will see it. And what will we have left for them then? We swore on holy words and on our flag of Guam, from the highest of our thoughts and the deepest of our hearts, to the most of our capabilities to offer ourselves to protect and defend our God-given rights, *i hinenggi*, *i kottura*, *i lengguahi*, *i aire*, *i hanom*, *yan i tano' CHamoru*. *Prutehi i åmot-ta*, *prutehi i hinemlo-ta*. *Saina ma'åse'*. [the beliefs, the culture, the language, the air, the water and the land of the CHamoru. Protect our medicine, our health. Thank you.]

**Author Senator Perez:** *Saina ma'åse'*, Vinessa, for those words. I just want to thank you all for being here, and we've been here many, many times before, speaking out, and I know it's truly hard to be here, but it's so necessary. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*. I'd like to recognize Tony Sablan. *Si Yu'os ma'åse''*.

**Antonio Sablan, Community Member:** *Buenas*, and *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Senator, Senator Telo, Senator Sabina. I came here to testify in reference of questioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. What is their purpose up at Litekyan?

They put a cyclone fence on the stretch of the property and then they said they're going to keep the snakes out. They put a fine mesh wire over the cyclone fence. Within a few years, that mesh wire, all rusty, and they were dropping all over the place. And then the pigs have an idea that they could break that cyclone fence to go in and out.

Now, if they're saying that they put those fences there to keep the snakes out so they could reintroduce the birds that are in captivity now, then obviously they have the very wrong idea. The original landowners are the people that were deprived of their land, and during the transition for U.S. Fish and Wildlife, again, this is a force taking away from the people instead of giving them back. The military, astutely, gave it to Fish and Wildlife, so they know that at any time they want it, they could take it right back.

I'd like to say the U.S. military has a huge stranglehold in our economy— the economy of Guam. You know, the more dependent we are on them, the more control they have on us. Such as, here's an example: look at Tumon Bay, from Hilton all the way to, I guess, Nikko is the furthest north; it's a stretch of about three miles of beachfront property. If you take the northern section, starting with Haputo, Urunao, Litekyan and Hinapsan— it's a stretch of eight miles.

And there's been, in the past, talks about developing Urunao, for example, to a tune of four billion dollars a year of master plan, hotel, championship golf course, and stuff like that. But those ideas and those things were all killed because the military continues to say, hey, you don't have an access road. I've been researching lately, and all the condemnations of both the Northwest Field that was condemned for \$8 an acre and the Ritidian property, there's nothing mentioned about taking the land.





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In fact, there's mention about providing access roads to those original landowners. So you know, we just have to stand up and say no more to the federal government.

I remember I was a member, a board member, of the Ancestral Land Commission. I was a commissioner there. And there's a group of non-profit organizations that was asking the governor, the governor's conference room, to please ask the admiral to put a pause, I mean, just slow down on their land— I mean, on their progress of just bulldozing everything down.

And the governor's response was, we can't because the Navy's above us. She was absolutely correct, if we allow them. But, you know, I went up there and I questioned the governor. They're representing us. Let me ask a question, whose island is this? Is it the Navy or is it ours? And whose property are we talking about? Is it the Navy again or is it ours? Why are we subservient to the military? They should be paying us rent. And if we really take the fair market value, \$10 billion a year is not a high price, because we are the tip of the spear. We're a target.

Three big nations, such as North Korea, China, and Russia, that we could easily be powderized when they decide to attack us. And to the U.S. military in Washington, D.C., Guam is nothing more. There's no respect for the civilian populace, but we are just a military base. We're dispensable.

Now they talk about hypersonic missiles, or they talk in the past about B-52s. What's the purpose of those? When there's a detection of a rocket coming our way, they all take off. And the only thing is that they didn't prevent those rockets from landing on us, but they're gone to do their work and attack back. But we are going to be powderized. Our children, our families, and our island entirely, we're all going to be destroyed.

Again, I emphasize that the economy of Guam really released its land back and let the original owner determine what they want to do with it. Let's just stop the military from dictating to us as to what we're going to do with our homeland.

If you look around our neighborhood, you know CNMI, they built a runway there. It's a 40-year lease. The U.S. military paid \$30 million in rent. What are we getting in Guam? Are we getting a penny for rental?

Or is it all this thing, oh, 'you're American citizen, we'll give you food stamp, we'll give you that. And no, we'll bring everybody into your island, so we'll minoritize you, so in the future if there's any vote, everybody has the right to vote, and therefore you're going to be outvoted because everybody wants to be American.'

CHamorus don't have a say-so on our own property, on our own homeland. We are nothing more than a colony with a thin veneer of a cosmetic appearance. That is what we are.

And I support this bill to get this land back to the original owners, because let them decide what to do with the land. They are better keepers of the land than the U.S. military. The military, when



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they need it, they bulldoze. They don't consider our traditional, cultural, and our emotional feelings on that. Mostly they're going to consider an eight-mile stretch of beach.

What would that beach do to the economy of the tourism of Guam? My gosh, let's return this land back to the original owner and start pounding on developing Guam for the better future and stop being dependent on the U.S. government. *Si yu'os ma'åse*.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Un dangkulu' na si Yu'os ma'åse', Siñot Sablan*, for your testimony. And thank you for all those years, decades, you've been raising awareness and mentoring a whole generation, several generations of us, and for your leadership, *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, for your leadership. At this time, I'd like to recognize Maria Hernandez May for her testimony. *Si Yu'os ma'åse*.

**Maria Hernandez May, Hita Litekyan:** *Buenas and hãfa adai. Guãhu si Maria Hernandez May, taotao Guãhan, Marianas, yan taotao Litekyan. Si yu'os ma'åse*, Senator Sabina, for writing this resolution, and to all of our senators here today.

I am the great-great-granddaughter of Ritidian original landowners. My *Saina Ana Matanane Pangelinan*, *Benigno Leon Guerrero Flores*, and *Dolores Martinez Flores*, are here today with us in this room. The Wildlife Refuge Office that is proposed to be moved for this firing range sits where my *nãnan biha's* home once stood. Ritidian is home to our families. Our childhood at Litekyan looked like waking up, stepping out of tents into the cool breeze, onto the cold wet sand, to the smell of *buñelos aga'* and fried rice.

It looked like praying to *guella yan guello* before entering the dark jungle to a makeshift shower where my *tãta's* home once stood. It looked like walking into the jungle and dancing with hundreds of butterflies.

S'mores over the campfire with my *primas* and *primos*, playing battleship, climbing trees, parking at locked gates in the dark of the night and hopping over as a family, passing our supplies from one family member to another, finding snakes in the van, sit-in protests in the form of campouts on our land every weekend, led by my strong and fearless *Saina*.

As kids, we never felt fear at Litekyan, when refuge staff would harass our families, take down license plate numbers, or when police would arrest and put our family members into their cop cars. We didn't worry because we felt no fear in our elders. We knew, and they taught us, that this is our land.

Our *mañaina* are still guiding us today and they call on us to attend these hearings as a testament to them and their resistance, a heartfelt and tragic story of being forced out of their homes, a struggle that they fought against until the day they died, and they asked our elders to never stop fighting, and so here we are.

As I uncover more about the land-taking by gathering documents from local agencies, including the Ancestral Lands Commission, I'm learning more and more about how records show that my



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*Saina* did not pick up their check payments for the land. This is their sign of resistance that they wanted us to find. I almost cried seeing that.

This is stolen land. The Legislative record shows us that this is stolen land. In 1995, 21 lawmakers unanimously agreed that Ritidian was taken by force, deceit, and outright theft.

This stolen land is proposed for use as a buffer zone for a 700-acre firing range complex. 900 football fields of CHamoru land have been destroyed for this military buildup.

We do not consent. Our ancestors would not consent to further harm being done to the land and more construction for yet another facility on sacred land. The decision to move the refuge center for a bombing range is an insult to the original landowner families who were never afforded an option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.

Moving the refuge facilities was never an option for our families in the 90s, but if the military wants a bombing range, heaven and earth are moved to make these plans happen. This should send shivers down the spines of every CHamoru in our homeland— that we as human beings in our islands continue to be disregarded and seen as an afterthought to profiteers and weapons of war.

You as lawmakers have an opportunity to turn the tables, support this resolution to proclaim that our sacred lands, waters, and our people are a priority.

DOD, it's time that you return the land to make it right. *Si yu'os ma'åse'*.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Maria. Yes, I think this is the time that we need to make this right. I think every indigenous person here has their identity tied to their lands. and once that's taken away, it really undermines our connection to our land, as a people. So thank you for that. I'd like to recognize Senator Barnett for being here. Thank you. Okay, so we have Josh Laurente. You're recognized.

**Joshua Laurente, Community Member:** *Buenas yan håfa adai. Guåhu si* Joshua Alan Guerrero Laurente. In February, I returned home to *Guåhan* after 10 years living in Portland, earning degrees in political science and public policy, and working as a community organizer on an array of federal issues, advancing equity initiatives, reforming democracy, and fighting for environmental justice.

As young as I am, my experiences taught me that policymaking starts and ends in the communities most affected. It does not hand it down from the powers that be, it is pushed up from the grassroots. And real servants, real public servants, know when to reflect the will of the people.

This community is gathered here today to urge, to demand, that leaders find a site for the Refuge Center that respects the history and heritage of this homeland, our mainland. Enough has been stolen. Enough has been lost. Enough has been desecrated. The people will not accept further damage to the land.

On the contrary, as unyielding as the tides that surround us, we will never stop advocating for the rights of these families to resume the stewardship of their land.



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Returning and protecting the heritage of our mainland must take priority over the construction, rather the destruction, brought about by this firing range. We the people are watching for you to do the right thing, to find a site for this refuge that respects the land and its First Peoples. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'âse'*, Josh. Thanks for coming back home. Next we have Rachel Davis. You're recognized.

**Rachel Davis, Community Member:** *Håfa adai.* Good afternoon. My name is Rachel Davis, daughter of Tomas Bejado and great-great-granddaughter of Ritidian original landowners, Ana Matanane Pangelinan, Benigno Leon Guerrero Flores, and Dolores Martinez Flores.

For generations, our family has called Ritidian home. It's not just a plot of land or a stretch of beach. It's a repository of our memories, the cradle of our heritage, and the sanctuary of our souls.

My family, custodians of the Ritidian legacy, owned parts of this land, and was on this very soil that myself, along with my father, cousins, and now my children, are raised amidst the whispers of the coconut palms and the endless lullaby of the hymns of the waves, filled with the strength of years enduring blood, sweat, and tears on this very land we call home. As a child, I was fortunate enough to experience the magic of Ritidian firsthand.

It wasn't merely a place to play or swim. It was a sacred canvas where bonds of families were painted with the vibrant hues of laughter, where the lessons of respect for nature were etched into our hearts with every grain of sand beneath our feet, with no fear in mind carrying off the strength of our *sainas*.

Ritidian isn't just a piece of real estate, it's a testament to the resilience of our culture and the strength of our connections.

It's where we learn to be one with this earth, to honor the spirits of our ancestors, and to safeguard the treasures of our island home for generations to come. Every shell, every stone, every sigh of the wind carries with it the echoes of our lineage, a lineage intertwined with the very fabric of this land.

Throughout my life, I've had the privilege of traveling all over the world, experiencing different cultures and lands. And yet amidst all the wonders I've ever encountered, it was always Ritidian that tugged at my heartstrings, beckoning me back home, infusing the rich culture into my artistry and my life. And now as we confront the relentless march to protect our land, the sanctity of our waters, and Ritidian hangs precariously in the hands of our leaders.

Our family's beach land faces threats from forces beyond our control, and forces that see only profit margins and infrastructure, but fail to recognize the intrinsic value of this truly sacred space.

I implore you, esteemed members of this Committee, to recognize the importance of strengthening protections for Ritidian, and similar for the rest of our island. Let us not be blinded by the lure of



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short-term gains, but instead, let us be guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the responsibility we bear to our future generations.

Ritidian isn't just a patch of sand and sea, it's a legacy worth preserving, a legacy that speaks to the very souls of Guam. Let us stand together in defense of our sacred lands and waters, not just for ourselves, but for all who will come after us seeking solace and inspiration in the embrace of our island home. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Un dangkulu' na si Yu'os ma'ase'*, Rachel, for your testimony. Next we have Elisa Silverio, James Wolford, Monaeka Flores.

**Monaeka Flores,** *Prutehi Litekyan/Save Ritidian: Håfa adai*, Senator Perez, Senator Quinata, Senator Barnett, and Senator Taitague, thank you so much for being here. My name is Monaeka Flores.

I'm a core organizer with Prutehi Litekyan/Save Ritidian, and it's for a devastating reason that we're here today. It's in that devastation that we're also honored to stand here in solidarity with the descendants of the original landowners of Litekyan, who've been fighting for the return of their homeland now for many generations. And I just want to thank you, Senator, for introducing this resolution, in what really seems to be a period of overwhelming silence from the executive branch.

For years now, we have cried to many administrations, and it's really been this Legislature— the Legislature that has spoken for the people time and time again. And so we're really grateful.

We're really grateful for you to introduce this because the silence is unbearable. The silence has been unbearable while we're watching the clearing, the destruction of the northern coastline in real time, the militarization of Litekyan in real time. Leaders have remained silent. We will look back at this many, many years from now, and we will remember who chose to stay silent and who chose to speak out.

And those who stayed silent will probably hold a lot of regret in their hearts for having said nothing while this destruction was taking place. And not only saying nothing but being complicit to this destruction and ongoing oppression.

The U.S. military has had a devastating impact on Guam's landscape and the relocation of Marines continues a very long history of harm inflicted on the people and environment of Guam due to military activity.

And it's really interesting that the refuge was established because of the violence to the land brought by the military. The introduction of the brown tree snake after World War II, a stowaway in military cargo caused the extinction of 12 of Guam's native bird species and the local extermination of several more. Habitat destruction and fragmentation have caused the birds and other species to be driven out by the military. And this whole refuge was established for that reason.



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This land was stolen from these families for that very reason. And now to protect these species and protect this environment, it's getting just thrown out the window. It's all being just thrown out the window for the firing range.

Not only are we aware of the violence that's already occurred on this landscape, we're watching more violence happen. The relocation of these refuge facilities is even another layer of injustice and violence.

On top of all of this, you know, the Navy has failed in its commitment to protect thousands of acres of habitat and now we're watching the destruction of that habitat for this firing range. Ongoing construction of the ranges themselves pose threats to tree species, plant species, animal species, but we're also looking at the threat of our aquifer. All of this is at risk. Now the relocation of this refuge is going to also cause a lot of damage, environmental and cultural destruction. And I actually have three images that I wanted to share. I thought it was really important.

Hearing Maria Hernandez May talk about the land that belonged to her great grandparents. This is the land right here. We're looking at this image right now. Where this refuge facility currently sits is on the very property that was stolen from her family. And this is the view of that property from the back of the machine gun range. The very back of the machine gun range, this is the view. You're going to look over that refuge, you're going to look over the ocean on a great day, you're going to see Rota.

They're going to tear all of that down to build a new complex, a new refuge complex right next to the Urunao landowners. They're looking at two roads, two potential roads, two historic trails, which pose threats to ancestral burials, as well as plants that are cultural resources in this area. It's really devastating to hear Maria sit here today with her children and her mother and her cousin and talk about this land they've been fighting for. This is it.

This is the picture of it, right here, and this refuge will be destroyed and moved to another location. Can we look at the next image, please? So this, sorry, it's a little skewed, but the blue line represents the areas they're considering for the new roads. And as you can see, they cut clear through the refuge property. They cut across land that was taken from their families to protect these species. They're going to cut through habitat, and they're going to cut through culturally sensitive areas that contain ancestral remains.

Can you please go to the next image?

This is an image that was prepared by the Navy last April in 2023. They had a comment period for the programmatic agreement memo associated with the relocation of these facilities. Of course, we know right after they released this, we were hit by a super typhoon and they did not pause or close that comment period. And so when no comments were submitted by the end of June, as we were recovering from Typhoon Mawar, they thought nobody had a comment about this and they decided to move forward.



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But this map is important because it's a part of that PA memo and just looking at it, you can see all of the critical archaeological studies that are associated with this relocation. There are several archaeological studies that show how highly sensitive this area is. They contain the remains of our ancestors and the evidence, the sacred evidence of their lives. Thank you so much. Those are the ends of my images. We can take those down.

You know, *Siñot*, thank you very much. And thank you to the staff who helped me make sure that we could show those today. I thought it was very important to have these visuals.

And to remember that the whole reason why this refuge was built in the first place was because of the devastating impacts to our ecosystem, because the military brought the brown tree snake here. Now that's all being thrown out the window, all of that land that they stole to protect these species is being thrown out the window, for this firing range. It doesn't make any sense.

And it's coming at a cost to the Urunao families. It's coming at a cost to the remaining untouched properties and sacred areas there that will have to be cleared for a new road and facility to be built.

If the military wants to say that they are good stewards of the land, if our own community is going to tell us, the people who are fighting to protect this land, that the military takes better care of it than us, we need to correct that. That's a lie.

That's an absolute lie because we are not the ones clearing over 1,200 acres for this firing range and clearing this land for a new refuge, that's going to cause more environmental destruction and cultural destruction.

Relocating the Marines from Okinawa to Guam has resulted in the destruction of more than 12,000 acres of the last best remaining limestone forests. These forests are known, some of them are in the Guam Wildlife Refuge. They were already set aside for mitigation for habitat loss and disturbance by the Air Force Base.

They provide the last suitable habitat for these species, but they also are sacred lands to our people, to the original landowners and to all of the people of Guam. If we're going to talk about security and keeping our islands safe, we need to talk about genuine security. Lately, we've been hearing the Governor throw around genuine security and what it means. But it's actually a framework that was developed by a group of feminist scholars and the way that it's being thrown around reflects that people don't understand what that framework is. What is genuine security?

Genuine security is not national security or military security. In fact, militarism and military occupation undermines what security really means for the people and the environment.

So genuine security means, they come from these main principles: the physical environment must be able to sustain human and natural life. People's basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and education must be guaranteed. People's fundamental human dignity should be honored, and cultural identities should be respected, and people in the natural environment should be protected from avoidable harm.



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In no way does this relocation and the current proposals of the military show that they are trying to reduce harm. This is another layer of violence and injustice to our land, to our ancestors, to the landowners, and we must demand that it stop immediately. And so, we thank you, Senator, for introducing this resolution. We hope that every member of this body supports it.

And we have to remember that, even if we're removed from this land, even if many generations later, we've been removed from these lands, you know, whether it's Hinapsan, Tarague, Litekyan, Sumai— we are still connected to that land.

We still carry the grief and the rage and the stories and the care for that land. The people who buried those ancestors who are laid to rest, and every family who lived on that land and took care of that land since then, would care about the protection of those burials.

We care about the protection of that ecosystem for every future generation that calls Guåhan home. And that's why we're here today. *Saina ma'åse'*. Thank you very much.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Saina ma'åse'*, Monaeka. Thank you very much. I do have ties to the northern part of Guam and it's just really what made me become an environmentalist, just that connection to the land and our ancestors. Thank you for being here and carrying on this responsibility and legacy to protect it. Unfortunately, as much as we want to regain that connection to the land more palpably, I just hope that one day we don't have to keep fighting for this, right? We need to have this connection restored. I think that's so important. Thank you. Angela Santos. Thank you.

**Angela Santos, Community Member:** *Si yu'os ma'åse', Senadora. Guåhu si Angela Santos, che'lun' Anghet Santos, defunto Senadot Anghet Santos. Gaige' i familia-ku guini i che'lu-hu, si Doris, i asaguå-ña John, yan i nanå-hu* [I am Angela Santos, sibling to Angel Santos, the late Senator Angel Santos. My family is here, my sibling Doris, her husband John, and my mother.]

*Manlå'la'la' i nanå-hu addai. Pues, ginen iyo-ña kurason na gaige' yu' guini, yan kontodu ni i che'lu-hu.* [My mother lives. And it is from here heart that I am here, along with my brother]. In her fighting spirit. So, if I may ask that I step aside and let her speak on this. I appreciate that. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** You may.

**Amanda Cruz Leon Guerrero Santos, Community Member:** *Guåhu si nanån-ñan Angel Santos. Ti hu apreba ennao para u fanhålom håyi u para u fanusa i tano' ni para firing range, sa i priority, the landowners.* [I do not approve of those who come here to use the land for a firing range because the priority, the landowners.] Because they own the land and you don't take away land that belongs to the CHamoru people of a long time. They own it. So why do people, outsiders, have to come in and take over the land in which they are not entitled to it? So, we have to bear with all people to just leave their land alone. *Si yu'os ma'åse'*.





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**Author Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'ãse'*, Tan Amanda Santos for being here. And yes, the spirit of Angel Santos and your whole family, thank you so much for your support. Next, we have Tewid, if you'd like to provide any testimony.

**Tewid Meresbang,** *Pacificnesian Equities: Hãfa adai* Senators, thank you very much for having me here and thank you for supporting this resolution, or putting this resolution together. My name is Tewid Meresbang; I'm with Pacificnesian Equities. We focus on equitable and sustainable development, particularly when it comes to the economy and people.

So, I really only have three things, and really one is we need to make sure that the land gets returned back to the original owners. That's absolutely a must. It's unacceptable that we're here in 2024 and the land is still not returned back to the original owners.

If anything, that should be a priority. We should be mad, we should be frustrated, we should be angry that land is not returned back to the original owners. I don't understand why not enough people on this island are mad and enraged that this is still happening.

Secondly, one is we need to talk more about the environment. When we talk about destroying another part of a refuge to build another facility within a refuge, it does not make any sense to me. It's completely mind-boggling. You have a refuge that is supposed to be, from my understanding, a refuge is supposed to be safe, sacred, and you're supposed to feel like you're a refuge, protected. But here we are, destroying another part of the land in a refuge to build a refuge. It does not make any sense to me. So, from a fundamental perspective, we need to think about that.

It does not make any sense to me. So, if it doesn't make any sense, and it involves destruction of land within a refuge that is supposed to help ecosystems thrive, then we need to stop that. We need to make sure that it's unacceptable and it doesn't happen.

Thirdly, from a sustainable development– but I just want to go back to Naek Flores' particular statement. The refuge was built in the first place so that way the ecosystem is protected, is safe, and it's cherished because it's precious. And here we are destroying it. It's completely mind boggling.

But from a sustainable perspective, if we allow the destruction of ecosystems within a refuge so that we can build a building. That has implications. Where are we going to get those minerals and those materials to build this new facility? Guess what? We're going to have to extract it from Dededo, we're going to have to extract it from Yigo. So in my mind, that means more extraction is going to happen, more unsustainable development. So just from a fundamental sustainable development perspective, it's not sustainable.

So if we allow that to happen now, it's never going to stop. We have to make it stop somewhere. We must make this resolution stop this further unsustainable development. We're on a small little island. It's 34 miles, right? 34 miles, 7 miles wide. I think it's 30 miles long, 7 miles wide.



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And so anything that comes to development, destruction on a small little island, we need to really look at that with a microscope. Like anything that involves extraction.

I don't know if you guys have ever been to Dededo or Yigo or Hawaiian Rock, but that whole entire part of the island has been extracted, excavated, so we can continue this unsustainable development. It's unacceptable, it's unsustainable, and we need to make it stop.

But really three things. We need to return the land back, make sure our environment is safe, protected, especially when it comes to refuge, or really on an island. And thirdly, we must ensure that anything that we do is sustainable.

And any construction, any destruction that involves an island, it's not sustainable. We need to just say stop, just stop, don't allow it. That's all I have. Thank you, Senators, for your time. Appreciate it.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Tewid, for your testimony, and a very sensible testimony. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*. Next, we have David Cabrera.

**David Cabrera, Community Member:** *Håfa adai, taluåni* Senators, and the people of Guåhan that showed up here today. I'm here from Saipan, and *måtto' yu' pågo na diha para bei nå'i i taotao Guam abio* [I came here today to give the people of Guam support], to give the people of Guam support and to show some solidarity all the way from the CNMI, in support of this resolution.

The people of the CNMI are looking towards the leadership here in Guåhan to set the kind of precedent that we need to preserve these significant cultural historic sites.

Whether you make the right decisions or the wrong decisions, your decisions echo throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, and you set the precedent in the way we handle these situations moving forward. So, the burden and the weight, the charge of the preservation of our cultural practices, our cultural places, fall on you all. And I don't want to make your jobs harder, but the pressure's on.

So, we appreciate this resolution. I speak for myself and for many people with the same sentiment in the CNMI. We appreciate this resolution, and we hope that more positive action is brought forward and we see and have an opportunity, more opportunity for the people of Guåhan to speak and to be heard, more importantly. So, thank you for your time.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, David, for your testimony and solidarity. Next, we have Melanie Guerrero. I can call the rest, Kenneth Guerrero, Lou Bejado, Amanda Santos, my apologies, you already came up, Doris Iriarte, John Iriarte, Christina Flores LeBrun, and if anybody else wants to come up that haven't spoken, Bobby Benavente, and anybody else who would like to come up. Melanie, you're recognized.

**Melanie Guerrero, Community Member:** Thank you so much, Sabina Perez, Senator, Senator Quinata, Senator Barnett, Senator Telo Taitague. I thank you so much for also showing up here



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today to listen to our cries. As I'm sitting back there listening to everybody's story, I'm just like, my whole body is just so heartbroken that this is happening to us, you know.

As I live here, I was born here, my families do have lands here, and I'm just— I'm sure that people watching feel the same feeling that everyone that's here today feel, because we're rooted here. We are here; this is our island. We are rooted here and we have all kinds of connections to everyone around our island. And I can't even help myself to be so heartbroken about everything that is happening around us.

And I know that you have your jobs, and I know that it's very difficult in itself to please everybody, but all we're asking is for you to now fight for us, right? Because we entrust you the power to do so. We believe in each and every one of you that have been elected in this body, and I know that there's so many promises that are being made, but all that I see is promises that are not being fulfilled.

I'm not saying directly from you guys, because I know how hard you work to get those fundings, to fight also for our people and why you're introducing this today for us to hear us out as well. I understand that.

But when we look back to, like everybody spoke about today, the preservation for these lands to be used for the wildlife, and now today, so many years later, they're asking you guys to like, what— take that away from the wildlife and all the sacrifices that the families had to make to give that up and still fighting for it. I help families here on Guam, in homes, in lands, and I'm so, so proud to do that. I'm so grateful that I'm blessed to be able to put families in their lands, put families in homes, and I think that every one of you sitting in that body today should also feel that, because you're connected to somebody here.

We live on two hundred and some square miles of island. How much more do you want it to be destroyed? This is your obligation, because we gave you the privilege to do that and I hope that you would take that very personally for your own families and for us that trust you to help us, because we are seeking your help to do that.

We are seeking your help to be the louder voices that we expect you to be because we trust you to do that.

And I'm just hoping, and I'm very thankful, for the work that you guys are putting in to do that, and I hope that you can take that home today and remember the families that are sitting behind you here today and take that home with you and really think that a lot of broken promises were made and that you guys were always fighting to like— how many times have we heard like cuts right? You never get enough for education, you never get enough for safety, you never get enough for all these things that we're all fighting for, that we entrust you to do for us.

Even if you're affected by it, we're affected by it, and you have short times to do that, to prove it to us, that gives you the privilege to do that, and I hope you remember why you were sitting there. And I hope you remember us and the families here that are fighting for their lands, and they're



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fighting for preservation of those lands and, if they're being neglected on their lands being returned, they're sacrificing for what? For you to come back today and ask them to say, 'oh, let's move the wildlife.'

After so many years of their sacrifice, now you want to ask them to do that. And what does it matter anyways, if we get bombed by a nuke, does it matter that you build all these sites to protect us when that's not going to matter?

But what's going to matter is that remember the history, that we're fighting to save our lands from all the environmental impact and destruction, and the peace that we want in our own island, so that we can all live here together, without all the diseases that are going to come out of it, without all the destruction.

We were just hoping for a better island and we hope that you can continue to hear our cries louder and that it sits in you, each and every one of you. Thank you so much.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Melanie, for being here and for your heartfelt testimony and, yes, we have been fighting alongside. Just, I think our voices need to be louder. So, if I can ask those that testified earlier, I forgot to ask questions of the panel, but maybe you can stick around for a little bit. Thanks, Kenneth Guerrero. Lou Bejado, you're recognized.

**Lourdes Flores Bejado,** *Hita Litekyan: Håfa adai* and good afternoon, Senator Sabina, Senator Roy, Senator Chris, Senator Joanne, Senator Telo. I'm so happy that you are all here present. I know you have many other very more important issues probably to address, but you know what this issue of returning the land is dear and near to our hearts. And I guess I would like to also say that I'm a direct descendant of Litekyan.

My grandfather is Benigno and my grandparents, Benigno and Dolores Flores, and they're one of the, of course, the original landowners whose land has been condemned at the time, 60 years ago, and then my great-grandmother, Ana Matanane Pangelinan, and her land sits at where their current refuge office is.

But as I am thinking and sitting here I'm thinking of, not only are we fighting for our lands, we also remember and recall in support of other families, local families, who too are in the same predicament and have been waiting and hoping for the return of their lands, who have been taken by the military and the federal government.

I mean as, and I recall, this one family from the Eagles Field family, where we were also in support of them, where they have hundred acres of land there that belong to them, they're original landowners, yet they're not able to get that land.

You have four generations sitting in one home. They have to continue to expand that one home to accommodate four generations. It breaks my heart that they have hundreds of acres that belong to them, yet they cannot get title to that land. And so that's something that we really need to think



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about, not only just us at Litekyan, but all the indigenous people, the families that need to return to their land. Land is life.

Land is life, land is sacred. The cost of land is priceless and it's becoming beyond control, beyond the affordability. These lands belong to our indigenous people. And our land was taken 60 years ago, condemned, you know. Thirty years later, it was taken a second time by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife. And at that time, we were in our adult stage and my cousins and I, our aunts and uncles, our grandparents, they've all gone.

You may recall, those of you who have been fighting in this fight, I mean, even with the *defunto* Angel Santos, I was in his presence and Ed Benavente, all the fighters. I'm so humbled to see his mom, Mrs. Santos, here. It just warms my heart, *saina*, God bless you. And so, again, it's just, we've been here for decades, Senators. We've been here in front of, many times, in front of this esteemed August body, even when it was in the old Legislature.

We've been in front of all the many governors, from Governor Ada, who even at the time when the refuge was taken, was established, or although it was deemed excess, it was then taken from our families to become a refuge.

I've always said at that time that this was a farce. I mean, in a nutshell, that land is not habitable, it's not conducive to the survival of endangered species because of the many, the brown tree snakes. And so, I continue to stress that point and say, wow, this is an actual farce.

They're just using this as a reason to hold the land so they don't have to give it back to the indigenous people. And 30 years later, my words are right. Where are the propagation of the endangered species and all? I mean, I don't need to repeat all that. You guys have heard it all.

But I'm saying to allow, this is an opportunity now, that the land is now not needed for the refuge. And now, perhaps it's the time to give it back to us. Is this a time to take a stand and take it back? I mean, what do we need to do?

I mean, do we need to stand in front of that gate and get shot at to make an effort to get the land back? I mean, someone needs to die to get our land back? I mean, Senators, I'm just asking you, and I wish there were more of you here, because I know that it's not just— I'm sure they have this in their heart, but maybe they don't. Because many of them have been in the Legislature for many years too, and they've been, they've heard us, and they're still not here.

We really need our leaders to stand up for us, stand for the indigenous people, stand for us, the CHamorus, and give us back our land.

I'm so sorry, we've been trying to be very gracious, very respectful. You know, this is all we're doing. We're just doing this. It's like, you know, talk, I'll talk. And I know, it's also tied into other things, right? Our hands are tied as well, I mean, with the status that we're in. Anyways, I'm just not going to prolong this.



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I know you guys all know where we're coming from, and we want to, we continue to pray. I even pray to my *sainas* in the Consecration of the Mass every day that they would provide that, that *mesgaihon ham mo'na* [lead us forward], lead us through and return our lands. And I want to thank you all again for being here, and I want to thank everyone for being here. I mean, my gosh, it just really warms my heart. I'm so humbled to see all the support and the support for this bill. Thank you so much.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Lou, for your words. And when you talk about forests, they went through all these rules for the Endangered Species Act, but they did not even follow it to protect one of the most rarest trees. They allowed the destruction of a forest, when that is the very thing that is needed to preserve it, is the forest around it. When you talk about farce, it does resonate, considering the actions that have been taken to overlook what is really needed to protect these species. So thank you for your testimony. Doris Iriarte, John Iriarte, Christina Flores-LeBrun and then Camden May, and Barbara Benavente is next.

**Christina Flores-LeBrun, Community Member:** *Håfa adai*, Senators and everybody here today. Thank you, Senator Sabina Perez, for holding this. I just wanted to say I'm just honored to be here with other people who really care about this, and I didn't prepare much for today.

But I am also a descendant of the original landowners. My auntie, Auntie Lou Bejado, who just spoke, is my mom's sister, so I'm the great-granddaughter of Benigno LG Flores. My dad is from the States and so I don't know, when I got to Guam, it was like I was like *pao åso* CHamoru. I felt like I was new, I was kind of different, and my family didn't make me feel that way at all. And the waters and the land never made me feel that way.

It was like when I went to Ritidian and everything, just my identity, like who I am as a Chamorita, like everything just came together. That's what's so beautiful about Guam and our culture is like we really, we are so gracious, like my auntie said, but then there's also that side of us that is prideful and we don't necessarily want to be like, I don't know if narcissistic is the word, but just at some point we have to say enough is enough and just stand up for what we truly believe in and what is the right thing to do.

And I know many of you have traveled around the world and that this really wouldn't be okay in many other places. And the fact that we are a territory of the U.S., second-class citizens in many different ways, it just deters us from having the same— being able to put our foot down and say no. And I think that's why we're here today with our shirts and our signs in solidarity with others, just to show how much we care. And it really brings tears to our eyes and our hearts and our souls.

I'm a teacher and that's where I want to take my son, my nephews, and our *nenis* in the family to learn about our great-great grandfather and grandmother and all the *Saina* that came before us to learn our language.



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My mom just tells me story after story about Litekyan, before the roads were built and the way the *fanihi* would fly and the turtles would swim, and it was just— it's so different. So, when I came back to Guam 2014, it was just...

And then, since it's been ten years now, and to go driving down that road up to Ritidian and to see the destruction that is there, I mean it's heartbreaking, it's heart-wrenching, as you're continuously hearing.

So again, I know it may seem repetitive, but I really, I truly am moved by everyone in this room. Like I said, I didn't come to necessarily have an oral testimony today, but I'm so grateful that I did, because this is what it takes. It takes people who just truly love their land, their culture, their heritage and to want to preserve it.

And there's so much more to the scientific, environmental side that I don't- I'm still a baby and a *neni* and learning and all of that- but I know that it's just amazing that not even family, people that are not necessarily tied to the land through familial roots, they just care because we're all indigenous to this land, whether it's 10% CHamoru or not.

Some people who just grew up here in Guam are so connected to the island. It's all we have, you know. So we just have to really work together to protect it, and *saina ma'åse'* for having me here today and listening, and especially for creating this resolution and putting so many efforts forward. We really see those leaders that care and genuinely appreciate you. So thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Saina ma'åse'* Christie, welcome back home. Camden May. Bobby Benavente, you're recognized.

**Barbara Benavente, Community Member:** Good afternoon, Senators. Thank you for being here. I think this is the first time I've ever come to testify with this current body.

I've done in previous sessions on various topics, but recently it's about the land and it's about what the military is doing to continue to destroy our land, take away our land, not give back our land. I submitted a written testimony, however, and I thought maybe that would be good enough, but when I was watching you guys live stream, I thought: you know what, as unwell as I feel, it's important that I come down here to at least sit with the original landowners and other supporters here in our community, who believe so strongly and who have fought so many years to try to make things right.

I've never met you in person, Senator. Good to see you. You better call in for dinner, because I've got like a million things I want to say and I know there's not time for all that. But I do want to point out or read out something that caught my attention last night, because throughout my life's experience I've always had to ask myself whether what I'm listening to or what I'm reading is fact or fallacy, and that's always a challenge, because people with more resources and larger connections seem to have a more influential voice than someone like me who's from Dededo.



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I'm a wife of 50 years to my husband, who's a fisherman, so we've experienced over time what it's like to be kicked off the land in Litekyan because we didn't belong. I've witnessed and heard stories from my husband about how a military chopper would hover over his 12-foot boat when he's fishing with a friend and told to get out of the waters, get away from the reef by Litekyan, because I think they said there was some kind of exercise going on and that maybe they're putting themselves in harm's way.

My children, we have three adult children, six grandchildren and a great-grandson, and it is very important to me and my family that the land is available to them to learn what I have learned from my families about caring for the land, about fishing and farming, and about teaching some really important life skills to all the generations that come after us.

I was reading the Governor's Facebook page. I was hoping I'd get her attention. And she talks about, she writes about— or someone writes it for her— about going to the museum to see the replica of the marlin that Greg Perez caught and how it was a world record weighing 1,152 pounds. And in her page she writes: Guam holds a unique place in the world, with a culture that spans over 4,000 years. Our traditions, our values, and our way of life are deeply rooted in this rich history, and fishing has always been at the heart of it.

It's a tradition passed down through generations, a heritage that connects us to our ancestors and to the bountiful waters that surround us.

Excuse me. She says, or she writes, made this about the exhibit at the Guam Museum— she writes: may this celebration serve as a reminder of who we are, where we come from, and the bright future that lies ahead. So I'm calling her on it as a fact.

I'm going to trust that what is written in her page is in fact sincere and genuine about taking pride about who we are as a people, and that we as a CHamoru people, and people who have welcomed so many different people from other islands and other lands and other cultures to make Guam their home and do it with respect and with reciprocity.

I come from the Family Jai. My grandmother's *Familian Jai*. My grandfather is from the Goyu family. So Greg Perez's fish, I could maybe own some of that because you know it's in blood, right?

My husband is a fisherman and one of the things that he's always telling me, when you go to these public hearings could you not say my name? So I'm going to refer to him as my husband. My husband is a wonderful fisherman. My husband takes care of the land. He's now a farmer and he now does what he can to ensure that we have sustainable food, that we not just keep for ourselves, but we share with our neighbors and family and friends. And I'm not quite sure where I'm going with this, except what is fact and what is fiction?

Is it a fact that the military's taking of Litekyan was really to have it serve as a preserve? To protect endangered species? To make sure the land is not contaminated and all that? Well we've seen otherwise, right?





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I stand in support of this resolution and I stand in support of the families getting their land back. I'm not a Litekyan beach owner. My husband inherited land in Yigo and so we're very concerned about the contamination that may happen, that the water is at risk.

We're concerned that with all the land that's been cleared off, there are more wild pigs for example, encroaching onto our property, digging up all our fruits and trees and destroying our land, because there's nowhere else for them to go perhaps, because now they're moving more inland from where they may have been living.

I'm reminded of a letter that I received from Angel when he was wrongfully incarcerated and he said that our work— there's still a lot of work to be done and we owe it to our kids to not give up.

And all this stuff, there's a lot of people that I can honestly say have the same sentiments as we in this room do. That it is wrong that our land has been taken away from CHamoru hands. That it is wrong that the land isn't being returned. But you know coming to these legislative halls, it's not easy.

You've got these televisions and broadcast live and everybody's kind of watching you and wondering if we're going to ever say anything articulate, and I'm like really struggling with that because when I feel the pain and anger about what's been going on our island. I mean the four-letter words come to mind first and foremost, and then I say 'oh my god' and then I pray, right. But I retired from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center. I worked 38 years in government, not just in that department but one or two other places.

And I see a lot of sadness.

The displacement of CHamoru families and other Pacific Islander families, and the increase in the number of people who are homeless, the high rate of suicide. I've talked to many youth over the many years I've worked with families, and have lost family members in the same way that tragically other families have lost.

And the one thing I do in my heart believe, totally believe, is that when we are displaced from our land, when we are disconnected from our culture, when we are brought up to think, made to believe that our language is not important, and a sign of potential success in the world is when you speak without an accent, without a CHamoru accent.

And, I mean, all of that really does play a strong part in where we are at today spiritually, mentally, emotionally.

I don't know what it will take to have our leaders walk the talk, and do it consistently— not just a few months before the primary kicks in, right? I've got my personal feelings about every single one of you because I'm not out here, but I do pay attention. And I really count on you guys to stay true to the CHamoru people and the people who've made Guam home. There's no half-stepping it anyway.



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We're getting screwed big time, and that's the polite word for describing what's going on to CHamoru families, to local families. I remember my mom used to say, 'the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.' And I never understood, you know, what the heck are you talking about, mom? She used to tell me that when I was a teenager, and I see it happening. But we really have to stand together, and I know some of you are nodding out because it's kind of late maybe, or maybe I'm boring.

Maybe all this stuff is like, shoot, I've heard this over and over again for the last 40 years, or whatever, but it is really unfair that original landowners, families like the Litekyan owners, have to keep coming back over and over and over to say the same things, to stand for the same principles and rights, the right to their land.

And all of this testimony and stories told are in your hands. You guys have a lot of power, maybe not a lot of power, more power than the power of the people, whom you are to represent.

And anyway, I'm now getting younger people *fanningge* '-ing me, so I'm like, I guess I'm kind of *Saina*, right? But I do have a brother that's turning 80 tomorrow. So until I hit 80, maybe I'll just leave the honors to him to be the *saina* of my family. *Si yu'os ma'ase* '.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'ase* ', Bobby, for coming here even though you're sick. It's so true that a lot of what's happening to us CHamoru people— this colonization is pervasive, and it underpins a lot of the problems that's affecting our society today. So I do agree with you there.

At this time, I want to allow my colleagues to ask questions. I know Monaeka has to leave, so maybe we can put a pause on the testimony at this time. And if there's any questions of the panel that came before. Senator Taitague, did you have questions you want to ask?

**Senator Telo Taitague:** Thank you, Madam Chair. And I know usually after a panel is finished and the next come up, we have an opportunity to speak. But, you know, it's very emotional right now. And a lot of hurt in the room.

A lot of good memories, especially when I look at my family, the Bejados, because back in the early 80s, I was down at Ritidian every Sunday with the family that I was a part of. And I still feel very close to them. I know the importance of this beautiful land that should be given back to the family. I've always been very supportive of returning the land back to the people, not just Ritidian, but all lands.

The government is taking over, using certain lands for the safety and well-being of the island from a military perspective. But it just boggles me why they take the best lands. And they say they need this particular land for one reason, but the only one I can think of when I grew up in Anderson Air Force Base, with my parents, where my father was in the military— that the best beach was Tarague Beach.

It was where everybody went and that's why the military liked that piece of land over there. But there's more to that. It's about the endangered species, it's about the plants, medicinal plants that



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are in that area. Monaeka, I really like to commend you for continuing to be an advocate for not just yourself and your beliefs, but those who come to you seeking help, that ask you to help them tell us on a scientific or even a well-educated viewpoint of this important piece of property.

You brought up a map earlier and what I just don't understand is: why is the military moving that facility into a different location that's still called the reserves, but why first are they doing it? Do you know why?

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** Yes, so at the view that I showed earlier was the view of the refuge from behind the firing range where the machine gun range is. That's the largest of the five ranges. It's the last one to finish construction.

It is the one that's been held up the longest because of the serianthes, the endangered tree that's there, but also it's the biggest. It's caused the most destruction. It's the biggest of all the five ranges, and at the very back of that range, when you look down, that's the view right on to that refuge facility which is the property that belonged to this family behind us. So that's the other end of the surface danger zone.

And not only are they going to take that area, they want to also take three miles out into the ocean, first for 273 days out of the year, as an extension of that surface danger zone. So they're not just taking where the firing range is, the surface danger zone extends over the wildlife refuge area over Litekyan, and then over into the ocean- three miles.

Now where the refuge currently sits, that's the edge of the firing range complex and then the buffer zone ends after a while toward the left, and where they want to build the new access road is further into the property.

So it's going to cross, they're looking at two potential sites. Both are historic trails. Both should not be cleared. Both are through ranch lands that existed there before the war; and both are through burial sites and culturally sensitive areas and also habitat areas. And so it doesn't make any sense.

They're going to tear down that whole existing facility and rebuild it. One of the areas is called the Jeep Trail, which is a historic trail, and then the other area is closer to the Urunao side, literally sitting on the very edge of the Urunao property. Here's the Litekyan property, right on the border. It'll butt up right against the Urunao. It'll literally, where the Urunao access road is, that's where the other potential location is.

The maps that I showed you are from the Navy's programmatic agreement memo that went out last year. It went out at the end of April and we had until June to submit comments, but of course in the middle of all of that we were hit with the super typhoon and nobody submitted comments.

I mean we even, we usually have a robust comment campaign around these things and we missed this one because it was around this time.



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And so now the Navy is just telling the public 'oh we didn't receive any comments,' but they're not contextualizing it as to why they may not have received comments at this time. But we have to also recognize that this is a flawed process to begin with, that collecting comments and us doing a comment campaign is not the end-all-be-all to this problem. That it's a flawed process that they're just checking off the boxes to say that they're engaging the community so they can move forward with these activities.

That process is extremely problematic and that's why this hearing is also so incredibly important, because it's allowing us, those of us who were not able to provide comments last year, to put on public record how we really feel about this relocation of this facility.

What it means for the original landowners and also that it means that they're basically going to build a whole new road, a whole new parking lot, a whole new office building where they shouldn't be. They should not, they do not belong there in those, in the remaining parts of Litekyan.

These are ranch lands where people— there's still *lemmai* trees that their ancestors planted that still exist there from their ranches, and these are the lands that are going to be cut through for the new road, parking lot, and building.

And so the maps that I showed are specifically from that memo and I shared the link and the document with Senator Perez's staff, so that can be circulated to all of you here today and also to the body in your deliberation for this resolution, which we hope passes very soon.

**Senator Taitague:** Thank you so much for that and you're right to provide comments. Many of us didn't even have power, let alone a cell phone that actually worked during that time.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** That's right.

**Senator Taitague:** So, it's very disingenuous for them not to delay the comment period, for the military not to do that.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** That's right. Yes, Senator. Thank you for that.

**Senator Taitague:** I mean, this is really wrong and it's very, like I said, disingenuous of them.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** Absolutely.

**Senator Taitague:** We tried to, like you said earlier, I think, be good stewards. Someone said that you know to be a good steward, but yet they don't reciprocate that same sentiment.

And this is the same property that the military continues to use as an excuse to hold onto the land, because of that area being so important for wildlife as well as plants, as you know, the berry. I mean, they use that same excuse to hold onto it and now, all of a sudden, it's not that important anymore.



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Now we can build a parking lot, another building, and then allow that area where the building's at now to just be in the line of firing range. Which brings me to the next question with regards to the firing range: wasn't that ever in the comment period, when the firing range was being brought up— did they say they would have to move that?

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** Yes,

**Senator Taitague:** Okay, so it was in that period, right? No, I'm talking about— this was in the 30th... Senator Perez. I believe when we went to the firing range, was it the 35th Guam Legislature that went, so it was around 2019?

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** So they did say that they would have to relocate the refuge facility and they would want to keep it on the refuge, but they did not have the plans yet and even these two options, they're not settled on which option- either the Jeep road or the one closer to Urunao- that they're going to use for this new access area.

And I really appreciate you saying it's disingenuous, and it's under that same vein that I'm saying that, this is to actually give us access to Litekyan. That's why they need to remove, to relocate it. It's to ensure our access is still, that we can still go there. But it's a farce.

**Senator Taitague:** Well, what is the Wildlife and Refuge saying about this? I mean, did they provide comments to this?

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** I'm not aware of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's comments to the military. They are in a few agreements. There is a memorandum of understanding that they have with the Wildlife Refuge. I believe you'll have a copy of the memorandum which, basically, they are supposed to help the military with the relocation of this facility.

It doesn't make any sense, though, because, like you said, this refuge was established to protect all of these endangered species.

If you walk in Litekyan today, even after Typhoon Mawar, you'll still see *lemmai* trees that are literally 300 years old, and those are the kinds of trees that they're going to tear through. These trees are habitats for endangered tree snails, or trees that are resting habitat for the *fanihi* when they come from the north.

All of that, they're wiping through all of that to relocate this refuge, so it doesn't make any sense at all.

**Senator Taitague:** Well, what doesn't make any sense is a group of individuals for Wildlife and Refuge are not standing up against this, because they're supposed to protect these areas.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** I think it's important to mention, too, that our organization, Prutehi Litekyan, is actually suing U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Navy for their failure to uphold that so-called mitigation plan that, as we can see, has failed.



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So we're currently in a lawsuit, actually, and I would even suggest that it's also good to wait for the outcome of the lawsuit before they can move forward with any sort of action. We're hoping that might be the outcome.

**Senator Taitague:** Thank you, Monaeka, for all your research that you're doing again and bringing this to our attention, and allowing those who are listening, too, to see exactly where the destruction is going to happen. No means am I anti-military, because I'm bringing this up. This is about our land.

This is our identity, who we are, and we don't have a lot of it. We do understand the protection of the United States. It is the United States. Guam is the United States.

But even that, there are places on this island within their own— behind the fence that they can utilize and be conscious of our culture, our heritage, our history. Because once you kill that off, our history is gone. I mean, our language is already dying, that's already dying. And then we truly have no identity. We are losing our identity.

And every time they take a piece of something that has been historically, I mean, we're 4,000 years old, and they take that away, we might as well be called something else other than Guam or even Guåhan or even CHamorus, you know, and rename us another name now because we lost who our identity is.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** Well, we also should be careful not to say 'within their footprint' because that's actually how they came to select Litekyan in the first place was that they said it was maintained within their footprint.

But as we can see now, it extends way beyond their footprint. It's all of Litekyan as well as three miles of ocean. And so it's very, very dangerous to say that. We should question every single thing they do behind the fence and outside of the fence because it affects our everyday lives.

**Senator Taitague:** And they're on the aquifer, you know, so we do have to—

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** That's right, yeah, absolutely right. Senator, thank you.

**Senator Taitague:** Yeah, I stand corrected on that. It's just very frustrating at this point in trying to do what we can as a Legislature, at least for some of us who really, truly believe in protecting our lands. It doesn't make us anti-military. It just makes us conscious of who where we come from and our history.

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** If I can respond to that, you know, it's actually really hurtful when we hear people in leadership say that environmental activists are obstructionists. It really doesn't make any sense because environmental protection is true security. We're not going to have a healthy economy with a bad environment. We're not going to have clean drinking water. There's no security there.



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And so to say we're obstructionists is ludicrous. We're trying to protect the island for all future generations. It's not that we're anti— like you said, to sign it off as something as simple as just being anti-American or anti-military, it minimizes what we're really living through every single day as an island that's fraught with poverty, drug addiction, houselessness, and those are all symptoms of our colonial reality and the militarization that happens here.

And if we really care about the safety and security of our island, we will care about the environment because we're not going to have a healthy economy.

We're not going to have a healthy community if we don't have a healthy environment. So for everybody listening.

**Senator Taitague:** Amen to that, Monaeka. Thank you so much. That was very well said. I'm going to end it on that one because that was very well said. I couldn't have said it any better. Thank you so much. Thank you, Madam Chair.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Senator Taitague. Senator Quinata, if you have any questions. Senator Barnett.

**Senator Chris Barnett, Committee Member:** *Si yu'os ma'åse'*, Madam Chair. I think I'm just going to start first on this, the labeling, and Monaeka to kind of expand on what you said. You said that you don't like it when, wait, did you say when people in leadership throw that term around?

**Monaeka Flores, PLSR:** Yeah, when people in leadership say that activists are obstructionists. And anti-this and that and the other thing.

**Senator Barnett:** I completely agree. And one thing I noticed since I got in as a senator, since the beginning of the term, we have seen what I believe is a total collapse and a breakdown in our ability to even discuss these issues with other leaders.

And so just going with my experience in this term, relative to Eagles Field, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor routinely, and I mean routinely, in press release after press release, said that we were anti-military, said that we were obstructionists. And this was just simply because we were asking questions.

When I was young, I was inspired, of course, by *defunto* Anghet. And what I saw in Anghet was someone who started out, many said he was radical, right? He jumped the fence.

I think as time went on and his arguments and all the issues that he was exposing along with *Nasion* CHamoru, with the passion and the facts, it was very important that all the things they were talking about turned out to be true. And he went from a figure who was considered radical to, at the latter half of his life, someone who was embraced by not just CHamorus, but people from all walks of life and all ethnicities. And I think it's because they admired the passion that he had to fight for what was right.



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There were people who called him anti-American, right? And so, it's not lost on me the irony of where we're at here in 2024 and how we've advanced as a people in so many ways. But when you talk about having to come to the Legislature and you said that the Legislature has been the body in this government that has listened to the people and in many cases been the voice of the people, I completely agree, but it can't stop here, right? We have to have the support of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor and the delegate.

When we have a governor who, and I'll just say what some of my friends have said, they've said, and I said this on the floor across the hall, that it's almost like we have a naval governor again. And I don't think anyone here is asking for any of our elected leaders to burn a flag or whatever. All we're saying is you have to stand up for our people.

When I look back at all the great leaders who have come before us and who have inspired someone like me to run for office, one of the things that inspired me was, from the late Speaker Unpingco to Anghet, I mean, we're talking about entire bodies of our previous legislatures that have supported efforts that are very similar to what we're discussing today.

When we have a governor who, instead of engaging on the issues, chooses to call names and say we're anti-American, when we have a lieutenant governor who goes before the Chamber of Commerce and says that because we're asking questions about how many septic tanks we're going to put over our aquifer, that we're anti-development and anti-progress, that just doesn't sit well with me.

And people, I feel like they really need to pay attention because we are at a critical juncture on our island in so many ways, and if we are not united, which right now we are not, I don't know how well we're going to make it out of this. So, obviously, I feel like I've been consistent.

The first political events I ever got into was I hosted the Santos-Terlaje rallies, right, and I've covered these issues in the media and I've come into the Legislature, and for me, it's never been a question that as an elected leader, all the ones that I've admired and respected, and they've been on both sides of the aisle— it has been a given that you stand up for the original landowners. It has been a given that you recognize these crimes and these atrocities and these unjust land takings.

It has been a given, it has been an obligation that you speak out about the pollution and the desecration that has been committed at the hands of, I mean, the military. For me, those are always things that were a given when you represent the people of Guam, and you consider our unique and troubled past. I just wanted to state for the record that when you talk about people calling names, it's offensive, yes, but for me, it's more heartbreaking because it signifies that we don't have that alignment from the top on down.

Like, we could pass this resolution. I mean, my mind's made up on it, right? But I don't know. I don't know how the Governor feels. I don't know how the delegate feels, but I know how they should feel about something like this. So, yes, you have my support, and I'm not saying go protest





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over at Adelup, but you're preaching to the choir. You really are, and I just don't want us to slide any further down this hill. I mean, it's a very slippery slope.

A lot of what I hear from the Administration is that we have to worry about our security and our safety, but at the end of the day, we're elected to represent the people of Guam and we have to worry about the troubles that we have faced.

If we don't fight against the injustices that we've faced, then we're not gonna be very ready to fight against the future injustice. So, I commend you guys for continuing to provide this testimony. I know there's a couple times where you said, 'oh, we've said it so many times and we've heard it a million times.'

Well, I'm ready to hear it a million more if that's what it takes to get to where we need to go. *Si yu'os ma'ase'*, Madam Chair, I commend you again for introducing the resolution and the opportunity to speak. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'as'e*, Senator Barnett. Maria, did you wanna say something?

**Maria Hernandez May, Hita Litekyan:** Yeah, *biba* to that. But also, I just wanted to add onto what Naek was saying about the public response to the refuge being used for this firing range complex. There were a series of protests that when I was part of Prutehi Litekyan, in 2021, we held in response to the military deciding that there was no public hearing needed for the refuge or for Ritidian to be used.

I'm not sure what the possibility is for our leaders to speak to the Department of Defense about how there needs to be a public hearing first on, like Naek said, the comment period is not sufficient. It's inaccessible, it's online. Some people don't have access to the internet, especially our *manamko*. And so I think there definitely needs to be a public hearing before they even move forward with discussing these plans to completely, irreversibly harm the land there up at Ritidian.

And just also wanting to go back to the inception of this project, the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement hearings in 2014, where hundreds of people came out to three different hearings and said that they did not want the land to be used for this firing range complex. It felt at that moment that all of the hundreds of people that have come forward, I mean, it was a beautiful sort of community effort to oppose this complex only for plans to move forward, you know, at the end.

And so I do hope that you all, as our leaders, can have that discussion with the DOD about how every step of this process needs to go through at least a community town hall meeting. *Si yu'os ma'ase*.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'ase'*, Maria. Senator Brown, my apologies, I didn't recognize when you walked in, but you're recognized if you have any questions to the panel.

**Senator Joanne Brown:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I really don't have any questions. I think they've all articulated where they're coming from with this issue of the land takings. You know,



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it's strange because we've grown up at a time in Guam where, on our CHamoru side, we've had this injustice to our people. And yet at the other end, we're also very patriotic people.

I'm also from a military family. I mean, yesterday I watched parts of the hearing on how we're going to support our veterans here on Guam, because I don't know a member here that doesn't have a family member that has served or is serving in the U.S. military. And yet we're in a situation also, of wanting to protect our interest of our island and our safety of our people. And yet we have this history of land taking. And, I've often thought if someone came and took my home and just took it away from me, what would I do?

Where would I go? Where would my children go or grandchildren? And it's something that many families here have experienced. Some have had their lands returned, but there's still many here that have not. This continued expansion, certainly, that we're seeing with the construction of the new camp. I've never been in opposition to the presence of our military to protect our interests in the Pacific. We've seen what happened when our people haven't been protected in World War II. I certainly don't want to see that happen again.

But we still have the challenge of: how do we address the lands that have been taken, or to continue to want to expand into lands that we would like to see returned? And, I've been down to this facility at Ritidian, and the thought that it has to be rebuilt and removed somewhere else and built again, I'm sure the first time was already challenging enough. And it's really heartbreaking because, how do we undo the justice and the damage that has been done?

The generation of which this land was taken from that did not live to see it returned. Our grandparents, my grandmother, who I never met, she passed away just a few years after the war. And my grandfather, it's been many years also. He lived a little longer, but he's passed. The generation that was most impacted by this, they're not here to see this.

They're not here to see resolution of their lands that have been taken from them or to see that it doesn't get passed on to their children or their grandchildren or our great-great-grandchildren. So I appreciate all of you coming in and providing—. You know, every initiative that our people have taken has had to be ours, when you think about it.

We look at the federal government and yet we think, 'oh, they're here. We're U.S. citizens. We have our U.S. passports.' The majority of our people, a lot of my CHamoru cousins who were born in the mainland, have never been to Guam, but they got more CHamoru blood than me.

Yet here our people are, our people are still challenged, but every initiative, as I was mentioning, we've had to take to speak and have our voices, to have even the degree of self-government that we do, even though we're not fully represented in our parent government of the United States.

We've had to be the ones to do it. We've had to be the ones to speak up and speak out. And as much as it takes, as long as it takes, even if it's something that has to be passed on to our children or our grandchildren, if we don't do it, who will? Nobody else will do it.



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So we need to continue to do that. And I appreciate all of you coming and providing your voice and your heart and your soul in your presentations of what is important. I hope we continue. I hope our young people also continue to value, because without our land, without the healthiness of our land, what do we have? Where do we go? Where is our homeland? So thank you again. And thank you, Madam Chair, for the opportunity to provide comment.

**Author Senator Perez:** Yes, you're recognized, Maria, if you have additional testimony.

**Maria Hernandez May, Hita Litekyan:** *Si yu'os ma'åse'*, I also wanted to acknowledge in my testimony, the 1995 legislation that I referenced that very clearly stated that Ritidian was taken by force, deceit, and theft, that your name was actually signed one of the signatories on that piece of legislation. And so I just am so grateful for that. I hope that you will continue to be a fighter for us for the Ritidian family.

**Senator Brown:** Thank you, and it's just a matter of the years. Look how many years have passed since that was passed by those previous legislatures. So it's a long road, but you know what? Like I said, we have to be the ones to do it. So we need to continue to advocate and we continue to fight for what we believe is ours. Thank you. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Senator Brown. Speaker Terlaje is unable to be here today. She regrets not being here because she is ill. But she's in full support of the resolution and support of Ritidian, and all the landowners, and against any further destruction and loss of access to cultural sites and homelands.

All right, so we have, I believe, one more or two more. Two more, okay. So thank you for your patience. I know Cassie had left. I apologize. Perhaps we can get testimony, written testimony. So, sorry, what is your name?

I'm just gonna go back to the beginning of the order of the sign-in sheet and just see who's up next. We have Dominic Flores, signed in advance. I apologize. Thank you for your patience, James. Okay, Dominic, you're recognized.

**Dominic Flores, Community Member:** All right, *buenas yan håfa adai*, Senators. Also wanna thank my family for being here, friends and family, aunts and cousins, that are the original landowners of Litekyan. I also wanna remember my descendant origin of the *Familian* Litekyan, my great-great-grandfather, Benigno LG Flores, and Dolores Martinez Flores. Also, my grandfather, Juan Martinez Flores, who's always been here at this press conference. And, I mean, all the hearings for Litekyan, he always spoke about fighting for our family, our friends, our neighboring islands, too.

May he rest in peace. He was a really hard advocate for us. Also, my mom, Dominica Santos Flores. She also followed my grandfather here all the time. My uncle, Chris Bejado, he also was following us there, too. And then, also, my uncle, Kenny Santos Flores. They all fought and spoke at these hearings. I wanna remember them and to thank them for bringing me here to speak for our family. I wanna recall the time when I was in Ritidian.



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I was probably, like, maybe 9, 10 years old, and I would remember the smooth sand, the waves crashing along the shore with my cousins, Chrissy, Maria, Rachel, even my Auntie Teresa and Auntie Lou behind me. We all would go to Ritidian, like, every single weekend. Right after school, we'd go down, have a good time. All my uncles would be fishing. We would also be setting up the firewood to barbecue. And we would just sit there and reminisce about the good times from generation to generation. And we'd talk about how beautiful the land is.

The fact that all of these things that are happening now, it's really devastating. It really breaks my heart to see it. I haven't been to Ritidian in years, because it's really hard for me to go down because I remember so much of what has happened. I get emotional. Like, even times, I don't even want to look down there, but when I see these things happening now, it hurts.

But, to be honest, this is my first public hearing that I'm speaking for the first time, and I'm already 30 years old. And honestly, I want to say the time that we have— we don't have as much time as before. Time is not on our judgment. So for that being said, I put my hands on my faith, I put the hands on our leaders like you guys to push through with this, and I hope and stay positive that we find justice, that we get our land back, original land owners, that we deserve it. I feel that Guam and us and our people, our hospitality is just up there.

We are like 100% through our hospitality. I think when the military comes into our island, and the Fish and Wildlife come into here, they take advantage of it. I feel sometimes it's okay to say enough is enough, no means no. Because they may be having a great time, but they're forgetting about, what about us? What about the original land owners? What about the local people? They need to ask us, or even talk about us, or even think about us. What about these guys?

They need to show some respect for us, because what they're doing now is really disrespectful. With that being said, I just want to thank you guys for presenting this to us. I want to thank my family that's speaking here. All the speakers here that are present today, I thank you guys for giving me the strength to speak for the first time in a long time.

And I send a message to everyone that's watching home, do not be discouraged. You all have a voice. You all have something to say. And fight for what is yours, and fight for what is truly yours. Don't let anyone take that away from you. Stay strong, have faith, and keep fighting. Because we are the original land owners of this— *Familian Litekyan*. Biba *Familian Litekyan*. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Biba. Si Yu'os ma'ase'*, Dominic. The stories that you remember growing up, that's part of the richness. It's not just the land itself, but the stories and connection that we have to that land. And truly, there's such an abundance. That's where our wealth lies, right? In our land, in our families, in our stories. *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* for being here. Next, I'm sorry, we're going to go by the listing. Next we have James. James, thank you for your patience.

**James Wolford, Community Member:** Sorry, it's cold in here. Having a hard time speaking, but it amazes me that we're here after all of these years. The family's still fighting for what was originally theirs. For how many decades have they been fighting? How many generations have passed?



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And within one piece of paper being signed, the military all of a sudden has this big giant project that didn't exist when all of this started. I would just like to know: what is their process? So we can pass it on to the families.

I, too, grew up going up over there. I'm not related, I'm pretty sure, not to them at all, but I grew up walking over there. I don't know if you guys have been up there and seen the *latte* sites. There's a whole village up there. I've also walked into the caves where fresh water is at. You know, we would go there after the typhoons to make sure that we got clean water, fresh water. We would go, or my elders would take us through these places and make us walk barefoot so we knew what we were feeling there, so we cannot forget where we came from.

The whole talk about the military protecting us makes me laugh, right? Because Guam and Japan has over 3,000 years of written history as friends, and it was the meddling of the U.S. that caused that whole thing for us to fight each other, right? Getting overwhelmed with all these thoughts right now, but there's a lot of injustice happening.

And to look at all these empty seats, it's kind of sad, because I can see all of the signs out there: please re-elect, elect this, elect that. And they're not even here for the people. So thanks for everyone that's actually sitting here listening.

My family has also been trying to fight for so long down there in Sumai. We got property down there that was taken by Big Navy.

We've been fighting for so long that a lot of them have passed and we've kind of just given up. So for me to come up over here is to show support, because I understand what it's like to just have something taken from you that is a beautiful piece of land, but also is rich in your own history, and that's pretty much all we got.

For them to just pick and choose wherever the wildlife refuge is going to be. I'm just wondering who's going to email all those animals and species to shift over to the other side so they can be protected as well. Who's going to do that for them, because you know I need a job for that. It's going to be pretty interesting to see how that works.

I'm a U.S. veteran and I was off-island for a while. I lived in Hawaii for a while, but every time I come home it's like nothing ever changed, except for who's in power or how many of your relatives are not doing so well, or how many passed. I got to keep coming back for people that passed, because of cancers.

They were working in the base, they got sick. They were fishing in a certain area where it's contaminated. They got sick. We got all these agencies on Guam and all these people getting paid from, I'm guessing, our tax dollars or whatnot, and nothing seems to be working. Nothing seems to be moving. Like, CHamoru Land Trust has a list since 1995 of people waiting to get into the land. They have a list of land that's available for the people, but nothing has happened.



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If I didn't go to work for a week, I would have been fired. So here we are, we're sitting here talking and I feel like I haven't been here a lot. But I've seen it happening over and over and over and I always think it's just a dead end, because I see a lot of people fighting for stuff. I see a lot of support for them, and at the same time I see nothing happening. But I see new bills introduced, I see new stuff getting passed. We're just skipping right through to all of these things.

And it was said a couple of times that you know the Governor and the whole thing. It's all silent on our people's issues. They want to call us derogatory terms, like anti-American, but let's be real. We're just trying to do what's right, get what's ours and continue living. Life's already hard as it is.

They like to tell us that the military build-up is good for our economy. But I'm going to tell you what: when I was in the military, I wouldn't come outside here to get groceries because the commissary is so cheap.

I wouldn't come out here to buy a TV because the exchange is very cheap. I definitely wouldn't come out here to buy gas because gas is very cheap on-base. I'm not really too sure what part of that is going to build the economy, or if it's like the restaurants and whatnot. But we have all of these things trying to blind us from what's really happening. What's really happening is families are being displaced and nobody's really representing. Whatever work you guys do, it still has to go against other people.

You still got to get support from the other sides or, the government office, or the Governor's office. What is it going to take really to— I don't see the military having these many meetings to have something moved. So what system are they using that we could use as indigenous people? Like I said, our lands been taken and we got nice land down there, Big Navy also, a nice beach, just like Tarague up there. We're never going to see that.

I'm never going to see that, because I don't got the time or the energy to fight for that right now, because there's a lot of other things I'm trying to do that will also benefit the island of Guam long after I'm gone.

At the very least I could do is come up and speak for families that are actually still in the fight, then that's the reason why I'm here.

There's a lot of stuff going on. We don't think about our ancestors as much as we should, because if we did, we wouldn't be acting the way we are right now.

There's so much divide and conquer happening, there's so many different sides and so many click-based society happening here, crabs in a bucket lifestyle here on the island. But we're only one, and if we can't unite to save the people, I don't even know what's the purpose of having all these offices.

There's a lot to say, and I don't want to get off track, so I just want to thank you guys for giving me the time to speak, and hopefully the future is a lot brighter than what the past has been.



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You guys got to remember that we are descendants of the beginning of time.

Our DNA exists today because our ancestors existed. If you're not going to think about the last 3,000 years of our people, you're definitely not thinking about the next 3,000 years of your legacy, your kids, kids, kids, kids, kids, kids, all of that, right?

We need to remember who we are so we can know where to go. Thank you.

**Author Senator Perez:** *Biba, si Yu'os ma'åse'*, James, for that testimony. I'm glad you spoke up. I'd like to recognize Angela Santos for your testimony.

**Angela Santos, Community Member:** *Saina ma'åse' na un nã'i hit ni tempo guini, yan este na resolution.* [Thank you for giving us time here and for this resolution.] *Guåhu si Angela Santos.* I was on earlier, but I gave my mom, she wanted to say a few things, and just her spirit being here was immense.

I want to say *lastima, lastima, lastima*, [wasted, wasted, wasted] we have our tomorrow people who are indigenous to this land, having all of this time to come in here and speak up about the injustices that continually happen. And it seems like it's a broken record, right?

A broken record of coming in here, crying, sobbing, saying how much exactly has been lost, how much we need to just buckle down and not let the military or the government take any more of our lands, and really have a secure future for our people on our lands.

Aunty Bobbie mentioned a few things earlier about the feeling that the Governor sharing with the opening of the exhibit at the museum and fishing. Fishing is a cultural practice that we live, we perpetuate to live by.

And with her sentiments, because of the museum opening and the exhibit happening there, her sentiments should shout, return the land, bring justice back to the people. That's what her sentiments should shout because her sentiments says, 'oh, wow, look at our rich culture and our rich history. Look at our heritage. It's very deep, man, we're so indigenous,' but then our actions speak otherwise.

What Senator Barnett mentioned earlier is that there's a divide, the body here at the Legislature, it speaks for the people. But then really with the Congressperson, the Congressional Delegate, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor, when there's no unification, really there's disarray.

And we people look to the leaders for that support. The sentiments around the island are strong in this sense of indigenous identity and ownership of our land, to be able to deal with all of the atrocities that are happening around us and our lives on a daily, right? It's like, hey, if you're not going to support us, well, okay, great.

I'm just going to lay back my head on my pillow and never mind the world. I'm going to give up because our leaders don't care. I'm going to keep coming back here saying the same thing. Same thing.



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And so I'd like to say *fakmâta, fakmâta, put fâbôt, put i taotao-ta, guini gi, isla-ta, i tano-ta, ta hami i taotao tano*. [Wake up, wake up, please, for our people here on our island, on our land, because we are the people of this land.] And this has been happening for decades, decades, where I remember going to Potts Junction when that gate was closed. And the military had to hold up a strong front for the people who owned the land to enter.

Then after that, the land was promised back to the original landowners, *yan humalom i wildlife refuge, i federalis, ya ma sangâni hit, "Oh! Bei na tutuhun este ni wildlife refuge, sa man nisisita ta prutehi ni todû ni i gâga'-siha, i ga-siha"*. *Lao, hunggan, ta prutehi, debi nai lao nâ'i hit tâtte' i tano-ta, ya siña ta na'lâ'la' taiguini* [they brought in the wildlife refuge, the federal government, and they told us, "Oh! We will build a wildlife refuge because we need to protect the flora and fauna." But yes! Let's protect it, return our lands, so we can give it life this way.]

When we get back on our land, we will live, and everything will be harmonious. Restore the justice from this injustice, for our people. I'd like to thank everybody who came out. I really wish that we had a lot more people.

Where's that camera at? Huh? *Amânu gaige' i camera?* [Where is the camera?]

*CHe'lu'*, I don't know why everybody isn't here with us. We all know that this is happening. Please stop turning a blind eye. If we keep saying we can't do anything about it, nothing's gonna happen. *Fanhongge' chadek*. [Believe it, quickly.]

If we don't stand up together, it's gonna keep happening. *Hita pâgo sa i famagu'on la'mon. Put fâbot. Put fâbot. Hita pâgo sa i famagu'on la'mon*. [Us today, because our children later. Please. Please. Us today, because our children later.] That's very heartbreaking to say when we're flowing in this direction. *Put fâbot*. If you guys can please share, yell towards the Adelup.

*Prutehi tano-ta. Nâ'i tâtte' i familia ni i tano-ñiha*. [Protect our land. Give the families their land back.] No?

If we can have one front, but trust me, we'll have a whole back and around everybody of you guys. We will be there. Let's just go forward and attack this how we want to because it's necessary.

*Saina ma'âse', na un nâ'i yu este na tempo, na bei alok todû este ya bei tohge yan i taotao-ta. Saina ma'âse'*. [Thank you for giving me this time to say all this and I will stand with our people. Thank you.]

**Author Senator Perez:** *Saina ma'âse'*, Angela. Maria, yes.

**Maria Hernandez May:** Yes, I just wanted to make a comment, really quick on something Ange had shared about the attendance today. There were a lot of people that actually reached out that said that they wished that it was after their work hours. We have to acknowledge that we live in a colony and a lot of people are struggling and they need to be able to work to put food on their table.





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And so, if you look at the history of public hearings around the firing range, usually it's a packed room. I'm not sure— there are obviously constraints on the legislative side and that's totally fine. But I just wanted to acknowledge that there are a lot of people that wanted to be here today that couldn't.

Then I also wanted to share that so many of my family wanted to attend today as well. But one of our matriarchs just passed away last week and my Auntie Lou Untalan Flores. And so, there are many members of my family who aren't able to attend.

Then one last thing, I didn't intend to just be commenting, but my son wants to say something, and I usually don't pressure my kids to share, if it's out of their comfort zone. But he's saying he wants to say something. I wanted to also, the last thing is just commentary on the Governor, that there were about 25 different groups who had met with her.

Sorry, my daughter's, we've been here two and a half, or three hours, and the kids have been good so far. But now the meltdowns are happening.

So the Governor at that meeting, all of us kind of shared our different perspectives. There were many different groups representing various issues around the firing range complex. And her response was that: we're a colony, it's our political status that's keeping us from being able to do anything. That was her reasoning as to why her hands were tied.

And to that, I think it's important that we all come to this realization that, although our political status ties our hands in many ways, that shouldn't stop us from speaking out and being loud, and being public about it, being public about the ways that she doesn't agree with the way that plans are moving forward for this firing range complex.

So we're going to continue to be loud. We're not going anywhere. And I hope that if the Governor is watching this, that she knows and understands the importance of agreeing with this legislation and passing it when it does go through the Legislature.

So I'm going to go ahead and pass it off to my son, Camden if that's ok.

**Author Senator Perez:** Yeah, we definitely welcome all members to speak to provide testimony. So you're recognized, Camden, if you can say your name for the record, your full name. Oh, I think you're already on the list. So yeah. You're recognized.

**Camden May, Hita Litekyan:** My name's Camden. I'm CHamoru. My great-great-grandpa needs to get back Ritidian. *Biba!*

The beautiful ocean, the baby turtles, and all about the cute little fishies. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

**Author Senator Perez:** *Si yu'os ma'åse'*, Camden for your testimony. I think at this time I'm going to open the floor to my colleagues if they have comments, questions at this point. Senator Taitague, Senator Brown.



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This concludes the hearing for this resolution. We will continue to accept testimony, but I would like to provide a closing statement before we close. So, *Si yu'os ma'åse' todus hamyo* for your testimony and your heartfelt words and contributions to this resolution. As a sacred site, Litekyan gifts our island with a cultural knowledge of our ancestors and a critical habitat for our native flora and fauna. Resolution 325-37(LS) is a concerted effort to protect the effective portions of Litekyan facing immediate disturbance from the planned relocation of the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Center, as found in the 2020 memorandum of agreement and the live fire training range construction.

The full protection of Litekyan is an indigenous, environmental rights issue of which are interwoven. The relationship between indigenous rights, including self-determination and environmental justice is affirmed and protected under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Although the U.S. federal government has expressed its support of this declaration, they have failed to recognize the CHamoru people's rights to free, prior and informed consent and self-determination in their continued militarization of Litekyan and all of Guåhan.

It is every intent of this resolution to support the full recognition of our CHamoru people's indigenous rights to their lands and waters, and our overall island's movement towards self-determination. As our community continues our centuries-long quest for the fulfillment of our rights, for the protection of our home, we must exercise every effort possible to halt the further destruction of our island.

Resolution 325 is one such effort to immediately protect Litekyan, as we continue to advocate for the full recognition of our right to self-determination. We appreciate the wisdom, strength, and advocacy of the original landowners fighting for the protection of Litekyan, for our people's joint efforts to preserve Litekyan, and all of Guåhan, and for all in the movement of our island's restorative justice. *Dångkulu' na si yu'os ma'åse'.*

The Committee will continue to receive testimony until April 16th. Please address all testimony to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson of the Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, Statistics, Research, and Planning, which can be dropped off here at the Guam Congress Building or emailed to [office@senatorperez.org](mailto:office@senatorperez.org). The time is now 4:49p.m. The Committee will now adjourn. *Si yu'os ma'åse'.*

Author Senator Perez adjourned the public hearing for Resolution No. 325-37 (LS) at 4:49 p.m..

### **Written Testimonies:**

- Maria Hernandez May
- Josh Laurente
- Cassie Bordallo
- Lilly Bordallo
- Jonathan Sablan



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- Eliza Manglona
- Hannah Soto
- Kara Schwarz
- Toni Brooks
- Nicole DeLisle Duneas
- Dylan Sablan
- Barbara SN Benavente
- Lisa Tenorio
- Atisa Marie Junio
- Amber Benavente
- Vanessa Story
- Aaron Story
- Hannah Villagomez Sablan
- Isa Rehana Flores
- Anastasia Gschwend
- Justin Benavente
- Anthony Duenas
- Marinna Julian
- Josephine Ong
- Rita Edwards
- Robert Babac
- April SN Swartz
- Paige Reyes
- Tewid Meresbang
- Moneka De Oro
- Natalie Bejado
- Ji Hye Choi
- Angela Santos
- Valerie Gamboa
- Austin Ringelstein
- Alexander White
- Lauren Taijeron
- Amanda Dedicatoria
- Teresa Laguana
- Kaitlin Ngeremokt
- Monaeka Flores
- Masakāda Collective
- Elsa Stamatopoulou
- Ryan Salas
- Jonathan Sablan
- Hannah Soto
- Lauren Taijeron
- Matthew Camacho



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- Mina Flores-Cantrell
- Aidan Moore
- Valerie King
- April Colitoy
- Isa Arriola
- Analyn Palugod

### **Supplemental Documents:**

- DOI and DON Memorandum of Agreement
- PLSR Powerpoint
- Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) brochure
- Excerpt from Dr. Elsa Stamatopoulou (2018), “Indigenous Peoples’ cultural heritage as a human right: today’s emergency”

### **III. Findings and Recommendation**

The Author Senator Perez finds the following for Resolution No. 325-37 (LS) based on the testimony provided at the public hearing:

- Maria Hernandez May, great-great-granddaughter of Ritidian original landowners:
  - “As kids, we never felt fear at Litekyan, when refuge staff would harass our families, take down license plate numbers, or when police would arrest and put our family members into their cop cars. We didn't worry because we felt no fear in our elders. We knew, and they taught us, that this is our land.”
  - Land-taking in documents from local agencies, including the Ancestral Lands Commission, records show that my *Saina* did not pick up their check payments for the land.
  - The Legislative record shows us that this is stolen land. In 1995, 21 lawmakers unanimously agreed that Ritidian was taken by force, deceit, and outright theft.
  - This stolen land is proposed for use as a buffer zone for a 700-acre firing range complex. 900 football fields of CHamoru land have been destroyed for this military buildup.
  - There were a lot of people that actually reached out that said that they wished that it was after their work hours. We have to acknowledge that we live in a colony and a lot of people are struggling and they need to be able to work to put food on their table.



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- Rachel Davis, great-great-granddaughter of Ritidian original landowners:
  - Ritidian isn't just a piece of real estate, it's a testament to the resilience of our culture and the strength of our connections.
  - Let us not be blinded by the lure of short-term gains, but instead, let us be guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the responsibility we bear to our future generations.
  
- Lourdes Flores Bejado, direct descendant of Litekyan native landowner:
  - “You have four generations sitting in one home. They have to continue to expand that one home to accommodate four generations. It breaks my heart that they have hundreds of acres that belong to them, yet they cannot get title to that land.”
  - Our land was taken 60 years ago, condemned. Thirty years later, it was taken a second time by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
  
- Christina Flores LeBrun, descendent of Litekyan:
  - “This really wouldn't be okay in many other places. And the fact that we are a territory of the U.S., second-class citizens in many different ways, it just deters us from being able to put our foot down and say no.”
  
- Dominic Flores, descendent of original landowners:
  - “I feel sometimes it's okay to say enough is enough, no means no. Because they may be having a great time, but they're forgetting about, what about us? What about the original land owners? What about the local people? They need to ask us, or even talk about us, or even think about us.”
  
- Camden May, son of Maria Hernandez May testified:
  - “My great-great-grandpa needs to get back Ritidian. *Biba*. The beautiful ocean, the baby turtles, and all about the cute little fishies. *Si Yu'os ma'ase*.”
  
- Prutehi Litekyan/Save Ritidian (PLSR)-
  - Monaeka Flores, core organizer of PLSR:
    - With the destruction of the northern coastline in real time, the militarization of Litekyan in real time; leaders have remained silent.
    - The U.S. military has had a devastating impact on Guam's landscape and the relocation of Marines continues a very long



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history of harm inflicted on the people and environment of Guam due to military activity.

- The refuge was established because of the violence to the land brought by the military. The introduction of the brown tree snake after World War II, a stowaway in military cargo, caused the extinction of 12 of Guam's native bird species and the local extermination of several more. Habitat destruction and fragmentation have caused the birds and other species to be driven out by the military. And this whole refuge was established for that reason. This land was stolen from these families for that very reason.
- The Navy has failed in its commitment to protect thousands of acres of habitat and now we're watching the destruction of that habitat for this firing range. Ongoing construction of the ranges themselves pose threats to tree species, plant species, animal species, and the aquifer. The relocation of this refuge is going to also cause a lot of damage, environmental and cultural destruction.
- To relocate the facilities, they're [the military] looking at two roads, two potential roads, two historic trails, which pose threats to ancestral burials, as well as plants that are cultural resources in this area. They cut clear through the refuge property.
- They're going to build a whole new road, parking lot, and office building.
- There are several archeological studies associated with the potential relocation area.
- The military had a comment period for the programmatic agreement memo associated with the relocation of these facilities. They did not pause or continue the comment period following Typhoon Mawar, leaving the residents of Guam unable to leave comments. "And so now the Navy is just telling the public 'oh we didn't receive any comments,' but they're not contextualizing it as to why they may not have received comments at this time. But we have to also recognize that this is a flawed process to begin with, that collecting comments and us doing a comment campaign is not the end-all-be-all to this problem. That it's a flawed process that they're just checking off the boxes to say that they're engaging the community so they can move forward with these activities."



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- “If the military wants to say that they are good stewards of the land, if our own community is going to tell us, the people who are fighting to protect this land, that the military takes better care of it than us, we need to correct that. That's a lie. We are not the ones clearing over 1,200 acres for this firing range and a new refuge.
  - Relocating the Marines from Okinawa to Guam has resulted in the destruction of more than 12,000 acres of the last best remaining limestone forests. Some of them are in the Guam Wildlife Refuge, set aside for mitigation for habitat loss and disturbance by the Air Force Base.
  - Genuine security is not national security or military security. In fact, militarism and military occupation undermines what security really means for the people and the environment.
- Pacificnesian Equities (focuses on equitable and sustainable development, particularly when it comes to the economy and people)--
    - Tewid Meresbang:
      - Three things: the land should be returned to the original landowners, we need to consider the environment, and further resource extraction and destruction of land is not sustainable.
      - “You have a refuge that is supposed to be, from my understanding, a refuge is supposed to be safe, sacred, and you're supposed to feel like you're a refuge, protected. But here we are, destroying another part of the land in a refuge to build a refuge. It does not make any sense to me. So from a fundamental perspective, we need to think about that.”
      - Dededo, Yigo or Hawaiian Rock, that whole entire part of the island has been extracted, excavated, to continue this unsustainable development.
  - Chamorro Nation-
    - Antonio Sablan, former commissioner of the Ancestral Lands Commission:
      - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife put a cyclone fence on the stretch of the property [around Litekyan], with a fine mesh wire, to keep snakes out. Within a few years, that mesh wire, all rusty, were dropping all over the place. If they're saying that they put those fences there to keep the snakes out so they could reintroduce the



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birds that are in captivity now, then obviously they have the very wrong idea.

- The military astutely gave that land to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife; they know that at any time they want it, they could take it right back.
- If you look around our neighborhood, the CNMI, they built a runway there. It's a 40-year lease. The U.S. military paid \$30 million in rent. He posed the question: what are we getting in Guam? The military should pay Guam rent for the land it uses.
- Talaya Club–
  - David Cabrera, from the CNMI:
    - “The people of the CNMI are looking towards the leadership here in Guåhan to set the kind of precedent that we need to preserve these significant cultural historic sites. Whether you make the right decisions or the wrong decisions, your decisions echo throughout the Northern Mariana Islands, and you set the precedent in the way we handle these situations moving forward. So the burden and the weight, the charge of the preservation of our cultural practices, our cultural places, fall on you all.”
- Member of the community offered the following spoken testimony in support of the Resolution:
  - Vinessa Dueñas, master's student at UOG and an apprentice to the Master *Siruhåna* Rosalia Fejeran Mateo:
    - Litekyan is home to countless endemic and non-endemic flora and fauna. Litekyan is unlike any other place on Guam to forage medicine. Nowhere else on Guam can you find almost all of the medicinal plants in one area. The argument of propagating these plants to another area to solve the issue is a major problem which goes against our traditional CHamoru healing ways of foraging for medicine.
    - Litekyan is home to an extremely rare and powerful medicine, vital in treating non-communicable diseases, that you cannot find anywhere else on this island, that's accessible to the general public.
    - According to the World Health Organization on the Health of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the rights of indigenous peoples reaffirms that indigenous peoples have the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices, including the conservation of their vital medicinal plants. It then urges member states to contribute to capacity building for indigenous peoples,





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so that they may recall their right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage and cultural knowledge.

- The destruction and contamination of Litekyan will greatly disenfranchise the people of Guam, and the confiscations and contamination of Guam's lands and waters will make Guam unlivable for the civilian population.
- Josh Laurente, community organizer on an array of federal issues, advancing equity initiatives, reforming democracy, and fighting for environmental justice:
  - “My experiences taught me that policymaking starts and ends in the communities most affected. It does not hand it down from the powers that be, it is pushed up from the grassroots. And real servants, real public servants, know when to reflect the will of the people.”
  - This community is gathered here today to urge, to demand, that leaders find a site for the Refuge Center that respects the history and heritage of this homeland, our mainland.
  - Returning and protecting the heritage of our mainland [Guam] must take priority over the destruction brought about by the firing range.
- Amanda Cruz Santos:
  - “Why do people, outsiders, have to come in and take over the land in which they are not entitled to it? So we have to bear with all people to just leave their land alone.”
- Melanie Guerrero, principal broker, investor, realtor:
  - But when we look back to, like everybody spoke about today, the preservation for these lands to be used for the wildlife, and now today, so many years later, they're asking you guys to take that away from the wildlife and all the sacrifices that the families had to make to give that up and still fighting for it.
- Barbara Benavente, retired from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center:
  - “I've always had to ask myself whether what I'm listening to or what I'm reading is fact or fallacy, and that's always a challenge, because people with more resources and larger connections seem to have a more influential voice than someone like me who's from Dededo.”
  - “I'm a wife of 50 years to my husband, who's a fisherman, so we've experienced over time what it's like to be kicked off the land in Litekyan because we didn't belong. I've witnessed and heard stories from my



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husband about how a military chopper would hover over his 12-foot boat when he's fishing with a friend and told to get out of the waters, get away from the reef by Litekyan, because I think they said there was some kind of exercise going on and that maybe they're putting themselves in harm's way.”

- “I'm not a Litekyan beach owner. My husband inherited land in Yigo and so we're very concerned about the contamination that may happen, that the water is at risk. We're concerned that with all the land that's been cleared off, there are more wild pigs for example, encroaching onto our property, digging up all our fruits and trees and destroying our land, because there's nowhere else for them to go perhaps, because now they're moving more inland from where they may have been living.”
- “I retired from the Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center. I worked 38 years in government, not just in that department but one or two other places. And I see a lot of sadness. The displacement of CHamoru families and other Pacific Islander families, and the increase in the number of people who are homeless, the high rate of suicide. I've talked to many youth over the many years I've worked with families, and have lost family members in the same way that tragically other families have lost. And the one thing I do in my heart believe, totally believe, is that when we are displaced from our land, when we are disconnected from our culture, when we are brought up to think, made to believe that our language is not important, and a sign of potential success in the world is when you speak without an accent, without a CHamoru accent. And, I mean, all of that really does play a strong part in where we are at today spiritually, mentally, emotionally.”
- James Wolford, descendent of original landowners from Sumai:
  - For them to just pick and choose wherever the wildlife refuge is gonna be. I'm just wondering who's gonna email all those animals and species to shift over to the other side so they can be protected as well.
  - “I'm a U.S. veteran and I was off-island for a while. I lived in Hawaii for a while, but every time I come home it's like nothing ever changed, except for who's in power or how many of your relatives are not doing so well, or how many passed. I got to keep coming back for people that passed, because of cancers. They were working in the base, they got sick. They were fishing in a certain area where it's contaminated. They got sick.



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- CHamoru Land Trust has a list since 1995 of people waiting to get into the land. They have a list of land that's available for the people, but nothing has happened.”
- Angela Santos:
  - “And this has been happening for decades, decades, where I remember going to Potts Junction when that gate was closed. And the military had to hold up a strong front for the people who owned the land to enter. Then after that, the land was promised back to the original landowners...”
- Director of the Indigenous Peoples’ Rights Program, Institute for the Study of Human Rights at Columbia University, Dr. Elsa Stamatopoulou, stated that Resolution 325-37 addresses very important issues for the CHamoru people and invokes important articles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) pertaining to Indigenous Peoples’ rights to their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, environmental protection, land rights, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). She provided the following testimony and recommendations:
  - Resolution 325-37 is relevant to the three interlinked pillars of the UNDRIP: the right to lands, territories and resources; the right to self-determination; and cultural rights.
  - Articles of UNDRIP relevant to the topics of Resolution 325-37 include: Articles 31, 29, 32, 25, and 26 mentioned as a minimum.
  - FPIC is the strictest criterion in the state to Indigenous relation and the respect of Indigenous Peoples’ self-determination. Matters of fundamental importance to Indigenous Peoples (Negotiations) have the FPIC requirement as per UNDRIP.
    - Other ways of the state connection with Indigenous Peoples and respecting their right to self-determination are: autonomy in matters that only concern Indigenous Peoples (e.g. local and internal affairs, UNDRIP article 4).
    - Consultations
    - Public hearings including in matters with no or limited impact on Indigenous Peoples
  - FPIC is established in six articles in the UNRIP: Articles 10, 11, 19, 28, 29, 32. Except for Article 10, the other five articles are relevant to the content of Resolution 325-37 and should be mentioned in the text. These articles demonstrate how fundamental to the dignity and well-being of the CHamoru people these issues are, and how very linked they are to their human rights. FPIC has to be provided by the CHamoru people’s own governance structures.
  - Given the numerous Special Rapporteurs at the UN Human Rights Council, it is recommended to specify which Special Rapporteur is referred on page 6, line 15.



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- Community members Maria May Hernandez, Josh Laurente, Cassie Bordallo, Lily Bordallo, Eliza Manglona, Hannah Soto, Vinessa Duenas, Kara Schwarz, Toni Brooks, Nicole DeLisle Dueñas, Dylan Sablan, Barbara SN Benavente, Lisa Tenorio, Atisa Marie Junio, Amber Benavente, Vanessa Story, Aaron Santos, Hannah Villagomez Sablan, Isa Rehana Flores, Anastasia Gschwend, Justin Benavente, Anthony D. Duenas, Marinna Julian, Josephine Ong, Rita Edwards, Robert Babac, April S.N. Swartz, Paige Reyes, Tewid Meresbang, Moñeka De Oro, Natalie Bejado, Ji Hye Choi, Ryan Salas, Jonathan Sablan, Valerie Gamboa, Austin Ringelstein, Alexander White, Lauren Taijeron, Amanda Dedicatoria, Teresa Laguana, Matthew Camacho, Mina Flores-Cantrell, Aidan Moore, Valerie King, April Colitoy, Isa Arriola, and Analyn Palugod are in favor of Resolution 325-37. They submitted the following testimony:
  - Current plans move the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its facilities within the “Refuge” which would cause irreversible damage to the land, devastate cultural heritage, and further disenfranchise the Ritidian original landowners in their decades-long efforts for their right to return as stewards of Litekyan.
  - Support for Resolution 325-37 does not assume support for the establishment of a 700-acre Life Fire Training Range Complex at Tailalo’, of which comprises the reason why the Refuge Center facilities are being moved. The decision to move the Refuge Center for a bombing range insults the original landowners’ families, who were denied the option for facilities to be moved so that they could return home.
  - Per the Navy’s studies, Tailalo’ (i.e. Northwest Field) was considered the most destructive option of the five location options. In addition, the LFTRC is being developed over the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA), which provides Guam with 85% of the island’s fresh drinking water. The LFTRC’s more than 6.7 million lead bullets and over 400 grenade detonations will threaten the NGLA and surrounding ocean areas. Fifteen endangered species are native to Litekyan and require the land to remain pristine for their survival.
  - Ritidian must be spared the consequences caused by the U.S. military’s Puuloa Range Training Facility in Ewa Beach in O’ahu, Hawai’i. High levels of lead were detected in soil samples adjacent to this area, with some up to 17 times the state safety standard for an industrial area.
  - The SDZ’s extension three miles into the ocean cuts off one of the best areas for fishing for 273 days out of the year while the range is in operation. Families who have fished in these waters for generations will no longer have access to their ancestral waters. The Guam Fisherman’s Co-op has testified against the firing range.
  - Yo’ámte (traditional healers) will be cut off from accessing rare ámot (medicine) plants, thus impacting the ability for the CHamoru people to perpetuate traditional medicinal cultural practices.



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- Litekyan must be returned to the original landowners per their Indigenous rights and stewardship.
- Josephine Ong, research fellow at Dartmouth College that consulted with the National Park Service's Pacific West, submitted the following written testimony in support of the Resolution:
  - The Navy's plans to relocate culturally and environmentally significant lands for the sake of a 700-acre U.S. Marine Live Fire Training Complex would further displace CHamorus that have long-protected and relied on Ritidian's lands and waters— leaving original landowners, traditional healers, and fishermen without the means of livelihood, sustenance, and cultural identity.
  - The Navy's intended location would further CHamorus' systematic dispossession and displacement.
  - Pollution of the Northern Lens Aquifer would also impact Filipinos, many of whom serve as cheap and exploitable sources of construction labor.

The Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning hereby reports out **Resolution No. 325-37 (LS) As Amended**— Sabina Flores Perez – **“Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands,”** with the recommendation **TO ADOPT**.

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2024 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez *SFP*

**Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, Ritidian Point (or *Litekyan* in the *CHamoru* language, which means  
4 a place of stirring) is one of the most valuable archeological sites of the Marianas  
5 Archipelago. *Litekyan* contains a plethora of *Latte* sets, water wells, limestone mortars,  
6 cave drawings, pottery, shell artifacts, and other cultural resources signifying the rich  
7 cultural history of *Guåhan*. *Litekyan*'s (Ritidian's) geographic, cultural, and historical  
8 significance remains mostly intact, and archaeological evidence reveals that the  
9 *CHamoru* people's habitation of *Litekyan* predated Spanish arrival in 1521 by over six  
10 hundred (600) years - with settlement at *Litekyan* dating over three thousand five  
11 hundred (3,500) years. *Litekyan* provides invaluable information on *CHamoru* ancestral

1 history, and contributes to the understanding of the unique heritage and culture of the  
2 Indigenous people of *Guåhan*; and

3 **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan*, including its site of *Tailålo'*, is a critical habitat for many  
4 of *Guåhan*'s endangered and endemic species, in addition to medicinal plants vital to  
5 traditional *CHamoru* healing practices. The environmental habitat of *Tailålo'* and the  
6 greater *Litekyan* area are essential to the survival of endangered and endemic species  
7 such as Guam's sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*), and the Mariana  
8 eight spot butterfly (*Hypolimnna octocula marianensis*). The primary limestone forest  
9 critically sustains endemic host species necessary to the existence of endangered and  
10 threatened species, such as the endemic host species *tupun ayuyu* (*Elatostema*  
11 *calcareum*); and the *Procris pedunculata* is solely relied upon by the Mariana eight spot  
12 butterfly throughout its entire life cycle; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the original landowners of *Litekyan*, Juan San Nicolas Agüero;  
14 Dolores Martinez Flores and Benigno Leon Guerrero Flores; Juan Mendiola Castro;  
15 Juan Rivera Castro; Ana Matanane Pangelinan; and Engracia Castro Perez, Tomas L.G.  
16 Castro, Gregorio L.G. Castro, Maria Castro Ada, Margarita Castro Camacho, Julia  
17 Castro Stephens, Francisco L.G. Castro, Concepcion Castro Camacho, and Santiago  
18 L.G. Castro; Juan S.N. Agüero and Maria T. Agüero; and their descendants, have  
19 historically or contemporarily been stewards of *Litekyan* through agriculture, cultural  
20 and traditional practices, and *CHamoru* rights advocacy inseparable from their  
21 Indigenous ties with their ancestral lands; and

22 **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan* was seized from the original landowners by the U.S.  
23 federal government in 1963 under eminent domain. In 1993, *Litekyan* was designated  
24 as a Guam National Wildlife Refuge in its transfer from the U.S. Department of Defense  
25 (DOD) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and as of 2023, *Litekyan*  
26 remains expropriated from the original landowners; and

27 **WHEREAS**, *Tarague*, *Urunao*, *Pahon*, and *Jinapsan* comprise northern sites of  
28 *CHamoru* ancestral landowners whose custodianship and Indigenous identity are  
29 directly tied to their native lands; and DOD and USFWS operations have directly or  
30 indirectly disenfranchised the cultural, environmental, and historical preservation of

1 these sites by denying original landowners from fully accessing and/or maintaining their  
2 lands in varying capacities, and/or through other means. The 2020 reactivation and  
3 further development of Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, the U.S. Air Force's open  
4 burning and open detonation (OB/OD) of munitions at *Tarague* since the 1980s, and  
5 other military acts, infringe upon the holistic welfare and Indigenous rights of the  
6 original landowners concerned and their ancestral lands; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Guam and the entire Mariana Islands are undergoing the  
8 construction and operation of a series of live-fire training ranges, with the relocation of  
9 approximately five thousand (5,000) Marines and their one thousand three hundred  
10 (1,300) dependents from Okinawa to Guam, as implemented by the U.S. Department of  
11 Defense (DOD) pursuant to the U.S. Department of the Navy's (DON) 2010 and 2015  
12 Records of Decision; the 2015 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS);  
13 and the 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) for  
14 the U.S. Navy's relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and  
15 Associated Activities on Guam (Biological Opinion), and its subsequent re-initiations.  
16 *Tailalo'* (Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field) in *Litekyan* was identified by the  
17 DON as a site to construct and operate the Live-Fire Training Range Complex  
18 (LFTRC); and

19 **WHEREAS**, the LFTRC encroaches upon the primary limestone forest at  
20 *Tailalo'* (Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field), with the Multipurpose Machine  
21 Gun (MPMG), the LFTRC's largest range, set a mere one hundred (100) feet away from  
22 Guam's sole reproducing, endemic and endangered *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*);  
23 and

24 **WHEREAS**, the LFTRC is scheduled to operate for nine (9) of the twelve (12)  
25 months of the year, resulting in the expenditure of 6.7 million bullets annually  
26 throughout the three thousand six hundred sixty-eight (3,668) square miles comprising  
27 the designated surface danger zones (SDZs). The consequences of live-fire training,  
28 including environmental contamination and destruction, detrimental health impacts  
29 from exposure to lead and other toxins, and interrelated exacerbation of the island's  
30 healthcare capacity pose substantial risks to the island's lands, waters, and people. On



1 September 25, 2023, the first live fire testing was conducted at the LFTRC, with full  
2 range operations proposed to begin in 2025; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in May 2020, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the  
4 Department of the Navy (DON) jointly entered into a Memorandum of Agreement  
5 (MOA) delineating their commitments to providing for the establishment and operation  
6 of SDZs, of which are superimposed upon a portion of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam  
7 National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Brown  
8 Tree Snake Research and Rapid Response (BTS RRR) facilities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the May 2020 MOA states that USFWS and USGS expressed their  
10 inability to meet the purposes of the GNWR Ritidian Unit and conduct the USGS BTS  
11 RRR, without the relocation of facilities and necessary resources to a location within  
12 the Refuge outside the SDZ; and

13 **WHEREAS**, per the May 2020 MOA, the DON will “build a permanent  
14 replacement office, visitors’ area, maintenance, research facilities, and any other  
15 facilities DON and DOI agree are commensurate with those impacted by the SDZs,”  
16 with the DON and DOI in joint agreement that the construction of new permanent DOI  
17 facilities will be within the Refuge. As to “minimize adverse effects to designated  
18 critical habitat on the Refuge from construction of the new permanent facilities,” the  
19 DON is responsible for the demolition of existing DOI facilities, the removal of  
20 demolition debris, and the preparation of the site for “restoration and regeneration,”  
21 including clearing and grading, delineation of habitat area, and the initial planting and  
22 translocation of native vegetation from the construction area or from the DON nursery  
23 stock “if available”; and

24 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the 2015 and 2017 Biological  
25 Opinion’s mitigation measures concerning the protection of *Hayun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
26 *nelsonii*) are insufficient given new and emerging information demonstrating the  
27 species to be at risk of extinction. A 2021 phylogenomic study confirmed the  
28 conspecificity of the Guam and Rota *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) populations, but  
29 also revealed that the sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) located  
30 nearest to the LFTRC’s MPMG footprint has a unique genotype and is distinct from the

1 extant Rota population. To increase the genetic diversity amongst the Guam and Rota  
2 populations, the preservation of Guam’s sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
3 *nelsonii*) is crucial for the survival of the entire species. Thus, the *Håyun Lågu* most  
4 approximate to the MPMG footprint, including the habitat in which it is located, must  
5 be preserved in place. The genetic study finds that the level of genetic diversity that this  
6 mother tree provides would prevent the bottleneck effect that can lead to species  
7 extinction; and

8       **WHEREAS**, in February 2019 and November 2021, Senator Sabina Flores Perez  
9 corresponded with the USFWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson, requesting  
10 that the USFWS fulfill its duty under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)  
11 § 402.16 and ask the Department of the Navy (DON) to re-initiate the Biological  
12 Opinion for the endangered *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) and the Mariana eight  
13 spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*); and

14       **WHEREAS**, in March 2019, USFWS Pacific Regional Acting Director Mary  
15 Abrams responded to Senator Perez’s February 2019 request, noting that “while the  
16 USFWS can recommend reinitiation of consultation, it is the responsibility of the DON  
17 to ultimately request reinitiation of consultation” if conditions are triggered regarding  
18 the extent of taking, new and emerging information, and modifications to an identified  
19 action concerning new/listed species or critical habitats. In response to Senator Perez’s  
20 November 2021 request, Regional Director Robyn Thorson stated in his January 2022  
21 letter that “if any new scientific data becomes available, including information related  
22 to the population status of *Serianthes nelsonii* or the impacts of climate change, USFWS  
23 will analyze the data and recommend the DON reinitiate consultation if triggers are  
24 met”; and

25       **WHEREAS**, the Endangered Species Act lacks the necessary oversight, if not  
26 regulations, for mitigating environmental and cultural destruction resulting from the  
27 LFTRC construction and related operations. It has been reported that of the two  
28 thousand (2,000) threatened *Cycas micronesica* trees, flora which are culturally  
29 significant to the *CHamoru* people surveyed on the LFTRC footprint, only fifty (50)  
30 were successfully transplanted. The significant contrast between *Cycas micronesica*

1 trees surveyed and those successfully transplanted constitutes new information pursuant  
2 to the 2015 BO, and intrinsically demonstrates the noncompliance of mitigation  
3 measures required by the 2015 BO; and

4       **WHEREAS**, the effects of climate change will increase drought frequency,  
5 which can be exacerbated by a strong El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) (2020  
6 PIRCA Climate Change on Guam), and consequently threaten the preservation of the  
7 *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) and its surrounding forest. Hotter conditions are  
8 expected, which will also increase water demand; and with the increasing drying and  
9 drought conditions and the tenable state of Forest Enhancement Area mitigation, it is  
10 even more critical to preserve the forest surrounding the *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
11 *nelsonii*), and where the highest concentration of host plants for the endemic endangered  
12 and endemic Mariana eight spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*) exist.  
13 Thus, the construction of the LFTRC, including its MPMG, must be immediately  
14 halted; and

15       **WHEREAS**, the “January 2021 Mandates of United Nations Special  
16 Rapporteurs” to the United States expressed that “the demolishing and military  
17 expansion by the Department of Defense of the several sites of great historical and  
18 cultural significance to the Chamorro people risks irreversibly damaging and further  
19 disturbing of ancestral burial grounds,” and that “the Chamorro people have not  
20 provided their free, prior and informed consent in connection with the ongoing  
21 expansion of U.S. military bases and its accompanying increase in personnel on Guam.  
22 The military escalation risks increased contamination to the drinking water, loss of  
23 wildlife and biodiversity, irreversible damage of their traditional lands, territories, and  
24 resources; loss of traditional livelihoods, cultural sites and heritage and threatens the  
25 physical and cultural survival of the Chamorro”; and

26       **WHEREAS**, the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
27 Peoples (UNDRIP) establishes “a universal framework of minimum standards for the  
28 survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world and it elaborates  
29 on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the  
30 specific situation of Indigenous Peoples,” and “confirms the right of Indigenous Peoples

1 to self-determination and recognizes subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories  
2 and resources”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, the U.S. federal government announced its support of the  
4 UNDRIP at the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) White House Tribal Nations Conference, stating that the  
5 UNDRIP “performs the invaluable functions of gathering together in one document the  
6 basic rights of Indigenous Peoples, educating the public, and providing clear direction  
7 for those nation states endorsing the Declaration,” and “expresses aspirations of the  
8 United States, aspirations that this country seeks to achieve within the structure of the  
9 U.S. Constitution, laws, and international obligations”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)  
11 adopted a plan to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
12 Peoples (UNDRIP), through which the ACHP “commits to raising awareness about the  
13 Declaration in the historic preservation community and incorporating the principles and  
14 aspirations of the Declaration into ACHP initiatives and programs.” The ACHP  
15 identified UNDRIP Articles 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 25, 31, and 38 that “fairly closely  
16 intersect with the mission and work of the ACHP and with the Section 106 review”;  
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the ACHP notes the National Historic Preservation Act’s (NHPA) Section  
19 106 review “seems consistent with the thrust of Article 18 of the Declaration in various  
20 respects,” in which Article 18 states “Indigenous peoples have the right to participate  
21 in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives  
22 chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain  
23 and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.” The ACHP confirms  
24 that “the NHPA requires federal agencies to invite Indigenous communities to  
25 participate in the consultation process to identify, evaluate, and resolve effects to  
26 historic properties of religious and cultural importance to them”; now therefore, be it

27 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
28 on behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*  
29 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United  
30 States Congress, to join with *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in this call for the relocation of the

1 Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities, for the reasons  
2 stated herein; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the U.S.  
5 Department of the Interior (DOI); to the U.S. Department of the Navy (DON); to the  
6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS); to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); to  
7 the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Members and the U.S.  
8 Senate’s counterparts; to DOI Secretary Deb Haaland; to Deputy Assistant Secretary of  
9 the Navy (Environment) Karnig H. Ohannessian; to USFWS Director Martha Williams;  
10 to USGS Director David Applegate; to the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate  
11 to the United States Congress; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*  
12 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH 2024.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
**Speaker**

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
**Legislative Secretary**

***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN***  
**2024 (SECOND) Regular Session**

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)**

As Amended by the Author

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez

**Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands.**

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

1           **WHEREAS**, Ritidian Point (or *Litekyan* in the *CHamoru* language, which means  
2 a place of stirring) is one of the most valuable archeological sites of the Marianas  
3 Archipelago. *Litekyan* contains a plethora of *Latte* sets, water wells, limestone mortars,  
4 cave drawings, pottery, shell artifacts, and other cultural resources signifying the rich  
5 cultural history of *Guåhan*. *Litekyan*'s (Ritidian's) geographic, cultural, and historical  
6 significance remains mostly intact, and archaeological evidence reveals that the  
7 *CHamoru* people's habitation of *Litekyan* predated Spanish arrival in 1521 by over six  
8 hundred (600) years - with settlement at *Litekyan* dating over three thousand five

1 hundred (3,500) years. *Litekyan* provides invaluable information on *CHamoru* ancestral  
2 history, and contributes to the understanding of the unique heritage and culture of the  
3 Indigenous people of *Guåhan*; and

4         **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan*, including its site of *Tailålo'*, is a critical habitat for many  
5 of *Guåhan*'s endangered and endemic species, in addition to medicinal plants vital to  
6 traditional *CHamoru* healing practices. The environmental habitat of *Tailålo'* and the  
7 greater *Litekyan* area are essential to the survival of endangered and endemic species  
8 such as Guam's sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*), and the Mariana  
9 eight spot butterfly (*Hypolimnys octocula marianensis*). The primary limestone forest  
10 critically sustains endemic host species necessary to the existence of endangered and  
11 threatened species, such as the endemic host species *tupun ayuyu* (*Elatostema*  
12 *calcareum*); and the *Procris pedunculata* is solely relied upon by the Mariana eight spot  
13 butterfly throughout its entire life cycle; and

14         **WHEREAS**, the original landowners of *Litekyan*, Juan San Nicolas Aguero;  
15 Dolores Martinez Flores and Benigno Leon Guerrero Flores; Juan Mendiola Castro;  
16 Juan Rivera Castro; Ana Matanane Pangelinan; and Engracia Castro Perez, Tomas L.G.  
17 Castro, Gregorio L.G. Castro, Maria Castro Ada, Margarita Castro Camacho, Julia  
18 Castro Stephens, Francisco L.G. Castro, Concepcion Castro Camacho, and Santiago  
19 L.G. Castro; Juan S.N. Aguero and Maria T. Aguero; and their descendants, have  
20 historically or contemporarily been stewards of *Litekyan* through agriculture, cultural  
21 and traditional practices, and *CHamoru* rights advocacy inseparable from their  
22 *CHamoru* (Indigenous) ties with their ancestral lands; and

23         **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan* was seized from the original landowners by the U.S.  
24 federal government in 1963 under eminent domain. In 1993, *Litekyan* was designated  
25 as the Guam National Wildlife Refuge in its transfer from the U.S. Department of  
26 Defense (DOD) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and

1           **WHEREAS**, *Tarague*, *Urunao*, *Pahon*, and *Jinapsan* comprise additional  
2 northern sites of *CHamoru* ancestral landowners whose custodianship and *CHamoru*  
3 (Indigenous) identity are directly tied to their native lands; and DOD and USFWS  
4 operations have directly or indirectly disenfranchised the cultural, environmental, and  
5 historical preservation of these sites by denying original landowners from fully  
6 accessing and/or maintaining their lands in varying capacities, and/or through other  
7 means; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the USFWS’s July 1993 Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for  
9 the Proposed Guam National Wildlife Refuge determined a “Finding of No Significant  
10 Impact” regarding the federal designation of the Refuge, as USFWS found this  
11 designation to not constitute “a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality  
12 of the human environment.” In the USFWS’s “Finding of No Significant Impact,” the  
13 Service provided reasons alleging their determination, including: “natural processes  
14 under which much of the area has evolved will be permitted to continue, with the  
15 exception of the control of alien species”; “no private lands are included within the  
16 proposed Refuge”; “the proposed action will not have adverse impacts to the local  
17 economy, cultural resources, or the social environment because the current land uses  
18 will be essentially unchanged”; “the proposed action will not have an adverse impact  
19 upon threatened or endangered species”; “the proposed action is consistent with the  
20 goals of the recovery plans for several endangered species on Guam”; “the  
21 archaeological and historical resources will be protected”; and “prior to the  
22 implementation of any management activities may affect these sites, the Service shall  
23 undertake the necessary surveys and planning to avoid and conserve the archaeological  
24 and historical sites”; and

25           **WHEREAS**, based on the information collected in the EA and “numerous and  
26 similar acquisitions that have preceded this action,” the USFWS determined to not



1 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the establishment of the  
2 Refuge; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Service ultimately determined a “Finding of No Significant  
4 Impact” and to not prepare an EIS despite the numerous testimony of original  
5 landowners reaffirming their Indigenous rights, stewardship, and cultural and  
6 environmental concerns over *Litekyan* preceding and during the USFWS’s 1993 EA  
7 process. As of April 2024, *Litekyan* remains expropriated from the original landowners,  
8 who continue to advocate for the return and protection of their ancestral lands; and

9 **WHEREAS**, per Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated  
10 (GCA) the Government of Guam seeks the termination of federal ownership of real  
11 property in Northern Guam (i.e. *Litekyan* or the federally designated Guam National  
12 Wildlife Refuge). Per Section 681001 of Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21, Guam Code  
13 Annotated, the Government of Guam seeks the transfer of Ritidian Point lands “from  
14 the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service to local  
15 authority for whatever purposes deemed appropriate by local authority, including  
16 possible return to original landowners”; and

17 **WHEREAS**, per Section 681002 of Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 GCA, the  
18 Government of Guam stipulates that the lands possessed by the former Naval Facility  
19 at Ritidian Point are “hereby designated as the lands of the Government of Guam, to be  
20 held in trust by the Government of Guam for the benefit of the original owners, and to  
21 be held in trust for the shortest time possible until the land can be returned to the original  
22 owners or their heirs” as an act of self-determination; and

23 **WHEREAS**, per Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 GCA, the Government of  
24 Guam repudiates the federal seizure and designation of the Ritidian Point lands,  
25 including the transfer of seized lands from DOD to USFWS, and asserts these federal  
26 acts to constitute theft from the original landowners; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the US federal government’s continued occupation of *Litekyan* is  
2 intrinsic to the ongoing construction and operation of a series of live-fire training ranges  
3 in Guam and the entire Mariana Islands. These developments include the relocation of  
4 approximately five thousand (5,000) Marines and their one thousand three hundred  
5 (1,300) dependents from Okinawa to Guam by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD),  
6 pursuant to the U.S. Department of the Navy’s (DON) 2010 and 2015 Records of  
7 Decision; the 2015 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS); and the  
8 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) for the U.S.  
9 Navy’s relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and Associated  
10 Activities on Guam (Biological Opinion), and its subsequent re-initiations. *Tailålo’*  
11 (Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field) in *Litekyan* was identified by the DON as  
12 a site to construct and operate the Live-Fire Training Range Complex (LFTRC); and

13           **WHEREAS**, the LFTRC construction has resulted in irrevocable destruction of  
14 the primary limestone forest at *Tailålo’* (Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field),  
15 with the Multipurpose Machine Gun (MPMG), the LFTRC’s largest range, set a mere  
16 one hundred (100) feet away from Guam’s sole reproducing, endemic and endangered  
17 *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*); and

18           **WHEREAS**, the LFTRC is scheduled to operate for nine (9) of the twelve (12)  
19 months of the year, resulting in the expenditure of 6.7 million bullets annually  
20 throughout the three thousand six hundred sixty-eight (3,668) square miles comprising  
21 the designated surface danger zones (SDZs). The consequences of live-fire training,  
22 including environmental contamination and destruction, detrimental health impacts  
23 from exposure to lead and other toxins, and interrelated exacerbation of the island’s  
24 healthcare capacity pose substantial risks to the island’s lands, waters, and people. On  
25 September 25, 2023, the first live fire testing was conducted at the LFTRC, with full  
26 range operations proposed to begin in 2025; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in addition to the construction and operation of the LFTRC, the  
2 2020 reactivation and further development of Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, the U.S.  
3 Air Force’s open burning and open detonation (OB/OD) of munitions at *Tarague* since  
4 the 1980s, and other military acts, infringe upon the holistic welfare and Indigenous  
5 rights of the original landowners concerned and their ancestral lands; and

6           **WHEREAS**, in relation to the development of the LFTRC and overall military  
7 buildup of Guam, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy  
8 (DON) jointly entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in May 2020. Per the  
9 May 2020 MOA, DOI and DON delineated their commitments to providing for the  
10 establishment and operation of SDZs, of which are superimposed upon a portion of the  
11 Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) and the U.S. Geological  
12 Survey (USGS) Brown Tree Snake Research and Rapid Response (BTS RRR) facilities;  
13 and

14           **WHEREAS**, the May 2020 MOA states that USFWS and USGS expressed their  
15 inability to meet the purposes of the GNWR Ritidian Unit and conduct the USGS BTS  
16 RRR, without the relocation of facilities and necessary resources to a location within  
17 the Refuge outside the SDZ; and

18           **WHEREAS**, per the May 2020 MOA, the DON will “build a permanent  
19 replacement office, visitors’ area, maintenance, research facilities, and any other  
20 facilities DON and DOI agree are commensurate with those impacted by the SDZs,”  
21 with the DON and DOI in joint agreement that the construction of new permanent DOI  
22 facilities will be within the Refuge. As to “minimize adverse effects to designated  
23 critical habitat on the Refuge from construction of the new permanent facilities,” the  
24 DON is responsible for the demolition of existing DOI facilities, the removal of  
25 demolition debris, and the preparation of the site for “restoration and regeneration,”  
26 including clearing and grading, delineation of habitat area, and the initial planting and

1 translocation of native vegetation from the construction area or from the DON nursery  
2 stock “if available”; and

3       **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the 2015 and 2017 Biological  
4 Opinion’s mitigation measures concerning the protection of *Hayun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
5 *nelsonii*) are insufficient given new and emerging information demonstrating the  
6 species to be at risk of extinction. A 2021 phylogenomic study confirmed the  
7 conspecificity of the Guam and Rota *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) populations, but  
8 also revealed that the sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) located  
9 nearest to the LFTRC’s MPMG footprint has a unique genotype and is distinct from the  
10 extant Rota population. To increase the genetic diversity amongst the Guam and Rota  
11 populations, the preservation of Guam’s sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
12 *nelsonii*) is crucial for the survival of the entire species. The genetic study finds that the  
13 level of genetic diversity that this mother tree provides would prevent the bottleneck  
14 effect that can lead to species extinction; and

15       **WHEREAS**, in February 2019 and November 2021, Senator Sabina Flores Perez  
16 corresponded with the USFWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson, requesting  
17 that the USFWS fulfill its duty under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)  
18 § 402.16 and ask the Department of the Navy (DON) to re-initiate the Biological  
19 Opinion for the endangered *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) and the Mariana eight  
20 spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*); and

21       **WHEREAS**, in March 2019, USFWS Pacific Regional Acting Director Mary  
22 Abrams responded to Senator Perez’s February 2019 request, noting that “while the  
23 USFWS can recommend reinitiation of consultation, it is the responsibility of the DON  
24 to ultimately request reinitiation of consultation” if conditions are triggered regarding  
25 the extent of taking, new and emerging information, and modifications to an identified  
26 action concerning new/listed species or critical habitats. In response to Senator Perez’s

1 November 2021 request, Regional Director Robyn Thorson stated in his January 2022  
2 letter that “if any new scientific data becomes available, including information related  
3 to the population status of *Serianthes nelsonii* or the impacts of climate change, USFWS  
4 will analyze the data and recommend the DON reinstate consultation if triggers are  
5 met”; and

6       **WHEREAS**, the Endangered Species Act lacks the necessary oversight, if not  
7 regulations, for mitigating environmental and cultural destruction resulting from the  
8 LFTRC construction and related operations. It has been reported that of the two  
9 thousand (2,000) threatened *Cycas micronesica* trees, flora which are culturally  
10 significant to the *CHamoru* people surveyed on the LFTRC footprint, only fifty (50)  
11 were successfully transplanted. The significant contrast between *Cycas micronesica*  
12 trees surveyed and those successfully transplanted constitutes new information pursuant  
13 to the 2015 BO, and intrinsically demonstrates the noncompliance of mitigation  
14 measures required by the 2015 BO; and

15       **WHEREAS**, the construction of the live fire training range complex required the  
16 destruction of the surrounding forest and habitat of the *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
17 *nelsonii*), which is in opposition to its recovery plan. The surrounding limestone forest  
18 was essential for its seedlings to germinate and repopulate the forest and for buffering  
19 the sole mother tree from drying or damaging effects of wind. Because of the loss of  
20 the forest, the lone mother tree suffered extensive damage from the recent Typhoon  
21 Mawar in 2023, thus jeopardizing the species; and

22       **WHEREAS**, the effects of climate change will increase drought frequency,  
23 which can be exacerbated by a strong El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) (2020  
24 PIRCA Climate Change on Guam), and consequently threaten the preservation of the  
25 *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*). Hotter conditions are expected, which will also  
26 increase water demand; and the increasing drying and drought conditions will further

1 weaken the lone mother *Håyun Lågu* tree, which has previously withstood Super  
2 typhoons Karen, Pamela, Chataan, and Pongsona and other damaging windstorms while  
3 its habitat was intact; and

4       **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds the destruction caused by the  
5 militarization of *Litekyan*, and federal accommodations pertinent to this process, to be  
6 in gross violation of the Indigenous rights of the original landowners to their lands,  
7 territories, and resources. Inseparably, the ongoing federal acts substantiate the US  
8 federal government to be in blatant disregard of the people of Guam, and disingenuous  
9 and in their determinations per the USFWS 1993 Final Environmental Assessment for  
10 the Proposed Guam National Wildlife Refuge and neglect to pursue an Environmental  
11 Impact Statement; and

12       **WHEREAS**, the “January 2021 Mandates of United Nations Special  
13 Rapporteurs” to the United States expressed that “the demolishing and military  
14 expansion by the Department of Defense of the several sites of great historical and  
15 cultural significance to the Chamorro people risks irreversibly damaging and further  
16 disturbing of ancestral burial grounds,” and that “the Chamorro people have not  
17 provided their free, prior and informed consent in connection with the ongoing  
18 expansion of U.S. military bases and its accompanying increase in personnel on Guam.  
19 The military escalation risks increased contamination to the drinking water, loss of  
20 wildlife and biodiversity, irreversible damage of their traditional lands, territories, and  
21 resources; loss of traditional livelihoods, cultural sites and heritage and threatens the  
22 physical and cultural survival of the Chamorro”; and

23       **WHEREAS**, the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
24 Peoples (UNDRIP) establishes “a universal framework of minimum standards for the  
25 survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world and it elaborates  
26 on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the

1 specific situation of Indigenous Peoples,” and “confirms the right of Indigenous Peoples  
2 to self-determination and recognizes subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories  
3 and resources”; and

4       **WHEREAS**, UNDRIP articles such as Articles 4, 11, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31,  
5 and 32 reaffirm the CHamoru people’s right, including the original landowners’ right,  
6 to their lands, territories, and resources; their right to self-determination, including Free,  
7 Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); and their cultural rights regarding *Litekyan* and  
8 other ancestral lands. The US federal government’s continued occupation of *Litekyan*,  
9 and resulting cultural and environmental devastation, violate these fundamental  
10 Indigenous rights inherent to the original landowners of *Litekyan*. The US federal  
11 government’s denial of self-determination and FPIC especially constitute grave  
12 violations of the most fundamental Indigenous rights protected by the UNDRIP; and

13       **WHEREAS**, in 2010, the U.S. federal government announced its support of the  
14 UNDRIP at the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) White House Tribal Nations Conference, stating that the  
15 UNDRIP “performs the invaluable functions of gathering together in one document the  
16 basic rights of Indigenous Peoples, educating the public, and providing clear direction  
17 for those nation states endorsing the Declaration,” and “expresses aspirations of the  
18 United States, aspirations that this country seeks to achieve within the structure of the  
19 U.S. Constitution, laws, and international obligations”; and

20       **WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)  
21 adopted a plan to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
22 Peoples (UNDRIP), through which the ACHP “commits to raising awareness about the  
23 Declaration in the historic preservation community and incorporating the principles and  
24 aspirations of the Declaration into ACHP initiatives and programs.” The ACHP  
25 identified UNDRIP Articles 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 25, 31, and 38 that “fairly closely

1 intersect with the mission and work of the ACHP and with the Section 106 review”;  
2 and

3       **WHEREAS**, the ACHP notes the National Historic Preservation Act’s (NHPA)  
4 Section 106 review “seems consistent with the thrust of Article 18 of the Declaration in  
5 various respects,” in which Article 18 states “Indigenous peoples have the right to  
6 participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through  
7 representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well  
8 as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.” The  
9 ACHP confirms that “the NHPA requires federal agencies to invite Indigenous  
10 communities to participate in the consultation process to identify, evaluate, and resolve  
11 effects to historic properties of religious and cultural importance to them”; and

12       **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the true remediation and  
13 preservation of *Litekyan* is contingent on the full recognition of the original landowners’  
14 Indigenous rights to their ancestral lands, and of all CHamoru People’s Indigenous  
15 rights to their lands, territories, and resources enshrined in the right to self-  
16 determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent; now therefore, be it

17       **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
18 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the DON and DOI to identify and utilize an  
19 alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated  
20 facilities corresponding to plots that are federally-held, disturbed, and outside the SDZs  
21 as to protect *Litekyan* from further cultural and environmental destruction; and be it  
22 further

23       **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
24 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the DON and DOI to engage in meaningful  
25 collaboration with the original landowners and the Government of Guam, pursuant to



1 the return of federally-occupied lands at *Litekyan* to the original landowners per their  
2 Indigenous rights and for the genuine protection of *Litekyan*; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
4 behalf of the people of Guam, reaffirm the position of the Government of Guam  
5 stipulated in Article 10, Chapter 68 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, relative to the  
6 termination of the federal government's seizure of *Litekyan* (i.e. the Guam National  
7 Wildlife Refuge). Reference made to the Refuge and its associated facilities by *I*  
8 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does not assume agreement with the US federal government's  
9 occupation, and is made with the express purpose to call for the protection and return  
10 of designated lands to the original landowners in concurrence with Article 10, Chapter  
11 68 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
13 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*  
14 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United  
15 States Congress, to join with *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in this call for the relocation of the  
16 Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities, and for the ultimate  
17 return of *Litekyan* to the original landowners for the reasons stated herein; and be it  
18 further

19 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
20 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the U.S.  
21 President Joseph R. Biden Jr., U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Secretary of the  
22 Department of the Interior (DOI) Deb Haaland; to the U.S. Department of the Navy  
23 (DON) Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment) Karnig H. Ohannessian;  
24 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Director Martha Williams; to the U.S.  
25 Geological Survey (USGS) Director David Applegate; to the U.S. House of  
26 Representatives Natural Resources Committee Members and the U.S. Senate's

- 1 counterpart; to the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United States
- 2 Congress; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH 2024.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary

AUTHOR MARK UP

*I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*  
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

**Resolution No. 325-37 (LS)**

*As Amended by the Author*

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez

**Relative to preserving one of the most valuable cultural sites in the Marianas Archipelago by identifying an alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities pursuant to the planned relocation prescribed in the May 2020 Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy (DON), in order to prevent further unnecessary environmental and cultural destruction, and relative to urging DOI and DON to fully recognize the Indigenous rights of the original landowners of the lands concerned, per their Indigenous rights inextricable from the genuine protection of such lands.**

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

1       **WHEREAS**, Ritidian Point (or *Litekyan* in the *CHamoru* language, which means  
2 a place of stirring) is one of the most valuable archeological sites of the Marianas  
3 Archipelago. *Litekyan* contains a plethora of *Latte* sets, water wells, limestone mortars,  
4 cave drawings, pottery, shell artifacts, and other cultural resources signifying the rich  
5 cultural history of *Guåhan*. *Litekyan*'s (Ritidian's) geographic, cultural, and historical  
6 significance remains mostly intact, and archaeological evidence reveals that the  
7 *CHamoru* people's habitation of *Litekyan* predated Spanish arrival in 1521 by over six  
8 hundred (600) years - with settlement at *Litekyan* dating over three thousand five

1 hundred (3,500) years. *Litekyan* provides invaluable information on *CHamoru* ancestral  
2 history, and contributes to the understanding of the unique heritage and culture of the  
3 Indigenous people of *Guåhan*; and

4 **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan*, including its site of *Tailålo'*, is a critical habitat for many  
5 of *Guåhan*'s endangered and endemic species, in addition to medicinal plants vital to  
6 traditional *CHamoru* healing practices. The environmental habitat of *Tailålo'* and the  
7 greater *Litekyan* area are essential to the survival of endangered and endemic species  
8 such as Guam's sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*), and the Mariana  
9 eight spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*). The primary limestone forest  
10 critically sustains endemic host species necessary to the existence of endangered and  
11 threatened species, such as the endemic host species *tupun ayuyu* (*Elatostema*  
12 *calcareum*); and the *Procris pedunculata* is solely relied upon by the Mariana eight spot  
13 butterfly throughout its entire life cycle; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the original landowners of *Litekyan*, Juan San Nicolas Agüero;  
15 Dolores Martinez Flores and Benigno Leon Guerrero Flores; Juan Mendiola Castro;  
16 Juan Rivera Castro; Ana Matanane Pangelinan; and Engracia Castro Perez, Tomas L.G.  
17 Castro, Gregorio L.G. Castro, Maria Castro Ada, Margarita Castro Camacho, Julia  
18 Castro Stephens, Francisco L.G. Castro, Concepcion Castro Camacho, and Santiago  
19 L.G. Castro; Juan S.N. Agüero and Maria T. Agüero; and their descendants, have  
20 historically or contemporarily been stewards of *Litekyan* through agriculture, cultural  
21 and traditional practices, and *CHamoru* rights advocacy inseparable from their  
22 *CHamoru* (Indigenous) ties with their ancestral lands; and

23 **WHEREAS**, *Litekyan* was seized from the original landowners by the U.S.  
24 federal government in 1963 under eminent domain. In 1993, *Litekyan* was designated  
25 as athe Guam National Wildlife Refuge in its transfer from the U.S. Department of

1 Defense (DOD) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and ~~as of 2023,~~  
2 ~~Litekyan remains expropriated from the original landowners; and~~

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3 **WHEREAS,** *Tarague, Urunao, Pahon, and Jinapsan* comprise additional  
4 northern sites of *CHamoru* ancestral landowners whose custodianship and CHamoru  
5 (Indigenous) identity are directly tied to their native lands; and DOD and USFWS  
6 operations have directly or indirectly disenfranchised the cultural, environmental, and  
7 historical preservation of these sites by denying original landowners from fully  
8 accessing and/or maintaining their lands in varying capacities, and/or through other  
9 means. ~~The 2020 reactivation and further development of Marine Corps Base Camp~~  
10 ~~Blaz, the U.S. Air Force's open burning and open detonation (OB/OD) of munitions at~~  
11 ~~Tarague since the 1980s, and other military acts, infringe upon the holistic welfare and~~  
12 ~~Indigenous rights of the original landowners concerned and their ancestral lands; and;~~  
13 and

14 ~~**WHEREAS,** Guam and the entire Mariana Islands are undergoing the~~  
15 ~~construction and operation of a series of live fire training ranges, with~~WHEREAS, the  
16 USFWS's July 1993 Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Guam  
17 National Wildlife Refuge determined a "Finding of No Significant Impact" regarding  
18 the federal designation of the Refuge, as USFWS found this designation to not  
19 constitute "a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human  
20 environment." In the USFWS's "Finding of No Significant Impact," the Service  
21 provided reasons alleging their determination, including: "natural processes under  
22 which much of the area has evolved will be permitted to continue, with the exception  
23 of the control of alien species"; "no private lands are included within the proposed  
24 Refuge"; "the proposed action will not have adverse impacts to the local economy,  
25 cultural resources, or the social environment because the current land uses will be  
26 essentially unchanged"; "the proposed action will not have an adverse impact upon

1 threatened or endangered species”; “the proposed action is consistent with the goals of  
2 the recovery plans for several endangered species on Guam”; “the archaeological and  
3 historical resources will be protected”; and “prior to the implementation of any  
4 management activities may affect these sites, the Service shall undertake the necessary  
5 surveys and planning to avoid and conserve the archaeological and historical sites”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, based on the information collected in the EA and “numerous and  
7 similar acquisitions that have preceded this action,” the USFWS determined to not  
8 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning the establishment of the  
9 Refuge; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Service ultimately determined a “Finding of No Significant  
11 Impact” and to not prepare an EIS despite the numerous testimony of original  
12 landowners reaffirming their Indigenous rights, stewardship, and cultural and  
13 environmental concerns over *Litekyan* preceding and during the USFWS’s 1993 EA  
14 process. As of April 2024, *Litekyan* remains expropriated from the original landowners,  
15 who continue to advocate for the return and protection of their ancestral lands; and

16 **WHEREAS**, per Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 Guam Code Annotated  
17 (GCA) the Government of Guam seeks the termination of federal ownership of real  
18 property in Northern Guam (i.e. *Litekyan* or the federally designated Guam National  
19 Wildlife Refuge). Per Section 681001 of Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21, Guam Code  
20 Annotated, the Government of Guam seeks the transfer of Ritidian Point lands “from  
21 the control of the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Fish and Wildlife Service to local  
22 authority for whatever purposes deemed appropriate by local authority, including  
23 possible return to original landowners”; and

24 **WHEREAS**, per Section 681002 of Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 GCA, the  
25 Government of Guam stipulates that the lands possessed by the former Naval Facility  
26 at Ritidian Point are “hereby designated as the lands of the Government of Guam, to be

1 held in trust by the Government of Guam for the benefit of the original owners, and to  
2 be held in trust for the shortest time possible until the land can be returned to the original  
3 owners or their heirs” as an act of self-determination; and

4 WHEREAS, per Article 10 of Chapter 68, Title 21 GCA, the Government of  
5 Guam repudiates the federal seizure and designation of the Ritidian Point lands,  
6 including the transfer of seized lands from DOD to USFWS, and asserts these federal  
7 acts to constitute theft from the original landowners; and

8 WHEREAS, the US federal government’s continued occupation of *Litekyan* is  
9 intrinsic to the ongoing construction and operation of a series of live-fire training ranges  
10 in Guam and the entire Mariana Islands. These developments include the relocation of  
11 approximately five thousand (5,000) Marines and their one thousand three hundred  
12 (1,300) dependents from Okinawa to Guam, ~~as implemented~~ by the U.S. Department of  
13 Defense (DOD), pursuant to the U.S. Department of the Navy’s (DON) 2010 and 2015  
14 Records of Decision; the 2015 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS);  
15 and the 2015 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Biological Opinion (BO) for  
16 the U.S. Navy’s relocation of the U.S. Marine Corps from Okinawa to Guam and  
17 Associated Activities on Guam (Biological Opinion), and its subsequent re-initiations.  
18 *Tailâlo’* (Andersen Air Force Base-Northwest Field) in *Litekyan* was identified by the  
19 DON as a site to construct and operate the Live-Fire Training Range Complex  
20 (LFTRC); and

21 WHEREAS, the LFTRC ~~enroaches upon~~ construction has resulted in  
22 irrevocable destruction of the primary limestone forest at *Tailâlo’* (Andersen Air Force  
23 Base-Northwest Field), with the Multipurpose Machine Gun (MPMG), the LFTRC’s  
24 largest range, set a mere one hundred (100) feet away from Guam’s sole reproducing,  
25 endemic and endangered *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*); and

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1           **WHEREAS**, the LFTRC is scheduled to operate for nine (9) of the twelve (12)  
2 months of the year, resulting in the expenditure of 6.7 million bullets annually  
3 throughout the three thousand six hundred sixty-eight (3,668) square miles comprising  
4 the designated surface danger zones (SDZs). The consequences of live-fire training,  
5 including environmental contamination and destruction, detrimental health impacts  
6 from exposure to lead and other toxins, and interrelated exacerbation of the island’s  
7 healthcare capacity pose substantial risks to the island’s lands, waters, and people. On  
8 September 25, 2023, the first live fire testing was conducted at the LFTRC, with full  
9 range operations proposed to begin in 2025; and

10           ~~WHEREAS, in May 2020~~WHEREAS, in addition to the construction and  
11 operation of the LFTRC, the 2020 reactivation and further development of Marine  
12 Corps Base Camp Blaz, the U.S. Air Force’s open burning and open detonation  
13 (OB/OD) of munitions at Tarague since the 1980s, and other military acts, infringe  
14 upon the holistic welfare and Indigenous rights of the original landowners concerned  
15 and their ancestral lands; and

16           WHEREAS, in relation to the development of the LFTRC and overall military  
17 buildup of Guam, the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of the Navy  
18 (DON) jointly entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) ~~delineating in May~~  
19 2020. Per the May 2020 MOA, DOI and DON delineated their commitments to  
20 providing for the establishment and operation of SDZs, of which are superimposed upon  
21 a portion of the Ritidian Unit of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge (GNWR) and the  
22 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Brown Tree Snake Research and Rapid Response  
23 (BTS RRR) facilities; and

24           **WHEREAS**, the May 2020 MOA states that USFWS and USGS expressed their  
25 inability to meet the purposes of the GNWR Ritidian Unit and conduct the USGS BTS



1 RRR, without the relocation of facilities and necessary resources to a location within  
2 the Refuge outside the SDZ; and

3 **WHEREAS**, per the May 2020 MOA, the DON will “build a permanent”  
4 replacement office, visitors’ area, maintenance, research facilities, and any other  
5 facilities DON and DOI agree are commensurate with those impacted by the SDZs,”  
6 with the DON and DOI in joint agreement that the construction of new permanent DOI  
7 facilities will be within the Refuge. As to “minimize adverse effects to designated  
8 critical habitat on the Refuge from construction of the new permanent facilities,” the  
9 DON is responsible for the demolition of existing DOI facilities, the removal of  
10 demolition debris, and the preparation of the site for “restoration and regeneration,”  
11 including clearing and grading, delineation of habitat area, and the initial planting and  
12 translocation of native vegetation from the construction area or from the DON nursery  
13 stock “if available”; and-

14 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds that the 2015 and 2017 Biological  
15 Opinion’s mitigation measures concerning the protection of *Hayun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
16 *nelsonii*) are insufficient given new and emerging information demonstrating the  
17 species to be at risk of extinction. A 2021 phylogenomic study confirmed the  
18 conspecificity of the Guam and Rota *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) populations, but  
19 also revealed that the sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) located  
20 nearest to the LFTRC’s MPMG footprint has a unique genotype and is distinct from the  
21 extant Rota population. To increase the genetic diversity amongst the Guam and Rota  
22 populations, the preservation of Guam’s sole reproductive *Håyun Lågu* (*Serianthes*  
23 *nelsonii*) is crucial for the survival of the entire species. ~~Thus, the *Håyun Lågu* most~~  
24 ~~approximate to the MPMG footprint, including the habitat in which it is located, must~~  
25 ~~be preserved in place.~~The genetic study finds that the level of genetic diversity that this

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1 mother tree provides would prevent the bottleneck effect that can lead to species  
2 extinction; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in February 2019 and November 2021, Senator Sabina Flores Perez  
4 corresponded with the USFWS Pacific Regional Director Robyn Thorson, requesting  
5 that the USFWS fulfill its duty under Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)  
6 § 402.16 and ask the Department of the Navy (DON) to re-initiate the Biological  
7 Opinion for the endangered *Hãyun Lâgu* (*Serianthes nelsonii*) and the Mariana eight  
8 spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula marianensis*); and

9 **WHEREAS**, in March 2019, USFWS Pacific Regional Acting Director Mary  
10 Abrams responded to Senator Perez’s February 2019 request, noting that “while the  
11 USFWS can recommend reinitiation of consultation, it is the responsibility of the DON  
12 to ultimately request reinitiation of consultation” if conditions are triggered regarding  
13 the extent of taking, new and emerging information, and modifications to an identified  
14 action concerning new/listed species or critical habitats. In response to Senator Perez’s  
15 November 2021 request, Regional Director Robyn Thorson stated in his January 2022  
16 letter that “if any new scientific data becomes available, including information related  
17 to the population status of *Serianthes nelsonii* or the impacts of climate change, USFWS  
18 will analyze the data and recommend the DON reinitiate consultation if triggers are  
19 met”; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Endangered Species Act lacks the necessary oversight, if not  
21 regulations, for mitigating environmental and cultural destruction resulting from the  
22 LFTRC construction and related operations. It has been reported that of the two  
23 thousand (2,000) threatened *Cycas micronesica* trees, flora which are culturally  
24 significant to the *CHamoru* people surveyed on the LFTRC footprint, only fifty (50)  
25 were successfully transplanted. The significant contrast between *Cycas micronesica*  
26 trees surveyed and those successfully transplanted constitutes new information pursuant

1 to the 2015 BO, and intrinsically demonstrates the noncompliance of mitigation  
2 measures required by the 2015 BO; and

3 WHEREAS, the construction of the live fire training range complex required the  
4 destruction of the surrounding forest and habitat of the *Håyun Lågu (Serianthes*  
5 *nelsonii*), which is in opposition to its recovery plan. The surrounding limestone forest  
6 was essential for its seedlings to germinate and repopulate the forest and for buffering  
7 the sole mother tree from drying or damaging effects of wind. Because of the loss of  
8 the forest, the lone mother tree suffered extensive damage from the recent Typhoon  
9 Mawar in 2023, thus jeopardizing the species; and

10 **WHEREAS,** the effects of climate change will increase drought frequency,  
11 which can be exacerbated by a strong El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) (2020  
12 PIRCA Climate Change on Guam), and consequently threaten the preservation of the  
13 ~~*Håyun Lågu (Serianthes nelsonii) and its surrounding forest.*~~ Hotter conditions are  
14 expected, which will also increase water demand; and ~~with~~ the increasing drying and  
15 drought conditions ~~and will further weaken the tenable state of Forest Enhancement~~  
16 ~~Area mitigation, it is even more critical to preserve the forest surrounding the lone~~  
17 ~~mother *Håyun Lågu (Serianthes nelsonii)* tree, which has previously withstood Super~~  
18 ~~typhoons Karen, Pamela, Chataan, and Pongsona and other damaging windstorms while~~  
19 ~~its habitat was intact; and where the highest concentration of host plants for the endemic~~  
20 ~~endangered and endemic Mariana eight spot butterfly (*Hypolimnas octocula*~~  
21 ~~*marianensis*) exist. Thus, the construction of the LFTRC, including its MPMG, must be~~  
22 ~~immediately halted; and~~

23 WHEREAS, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds the destruction caused by the  
24 militarization of *Litekyan*, and federal accommodations pertinent to this process, to be  
25 in gross violation of the Indigenous rights of the original landowners to their lands,  
26 territories, and resources. Inseparably, the ongoing federal acts substantiate the US

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1 federal government to be in blatant disregard of the people of Guam, and disingenuous  
2 and in their determinations per the USFWS 1993 Final Environmental Assessment for  
3 the Proposed Guam National Wildlife Refuge and neglect to pursue an Environmental  
4 Impact Statement; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the “January 2021 Mandates of United Nations Special  
6 Rapporteurs” to the United States expressed that “the demolishing and military  
7 expansion by the Department of Defense of the several sites of great historical and  
8 cultural significance to the Chamorro people risks irreversibly damaging and further  
9 disturbing of ancestral burial grounds,” and that “the Chamorro people have not  
10 provided their free, prior and informed consent in connection with the ongoing  
11 expansion of U.S. military bases and its accompanying increase in personnel on Guam.  
12 The military escalation risks increased contamination to the drinking water, loss of  
13 wildlife and biodiversity, irreversible damage of their traditional lands, territories, and  
14 resources; loss of traditional livelihoods, cultural sites and heritage and threatens the  
15 physical and cultural survival of the Chamorro”; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
17 Peoples (UNDRIP) establishes “a universal framework of minimum standards for the  
18 survival, dignity and well-being of the Indigenous Peoples of the world and it elaborates  
19 on existing human rights standards and fundamental freedoms as they apply to the  
20 specific situation of Indigenous Peoples,” and “confirms the right of Indigenous Peoples  
21 to self-determination and recognizes subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories  
22 and resources”; and

23 **WHEREAS**, UNDRIP articles such as Articles 4, 11, 19, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31,  
24 and 32 reaffirm the CHamoru people’s right, including the original landowners’ right,  
25 to their lands, territories, and resources; their right to self-determination, including Free,  
26 Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); and their cultural rights regarding *Litekyan* and

1 other ancestral lands. The US federal government’s continued occupation of Litekyan,  
2 and resulting cultural and environmental devastation, violate these fundamental  
3 Indigenous rights inherent to the original landowners of Litekyan. The US federal  
4 government’s denial of self-determination and FPIC especially constitute grave  
5 violations of the most fundamental Indigenous rights protected by the UNDRIP; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, the U.S. federal government announced its support of the  
7 UNDRIP at the Second (2<sup>nd</sup>) White House Tribal Nations Conference, stating that the  
8 UNDRIP “performs the invaluable functions of gathering together in one document the  
9 basic rights of Indigenous Peoples, educating the public, and providing clear direction  
10 for those nation states endorsing the Declaration,” and “expresses aspirations of the  
11 United States, aspirations that this country seeks to achieve within the structure of the  
12 U.S. Constitution, laws, and international obligations”; and

13 **WHEREAS**, in 2013, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)  
14 adopted a plan to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous  
15 Peoples (UNDRIP), through which the ACHP “commits to raising awareness about the  
16 Declaration in the historic preservation community and incorporating the principles and  
17 aspirations of the Declaration into ACHP initiatives and programs.” The ACHP  
18 identified UNDRIP Articles 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 25, 31, and 38 that “fairly closely  
19 intersect with the mission and work of the ACHP and with the Section 106 review”;  
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, the ACHP notes the National Historic Preservation Act’s (NHPA)  
22 Section 106 review “seems consistent with the thrust of Article 18 of the Declaration in  
23 various respects,” in which Article 18 states “Indigenous peoples have the right to  
24 participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through  
25 representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well  
26 as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.” The

1 ACHP confirms that “the NHPA requires federal agencies to invite Indigenous  
2 communities to participate in the consultation process to identify, evaluate, and resolve  
3 effects to historic properties of religious and cultural importance to them”; ~~now~~  
4 ~~therefore, be it and~~

5 WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan finds that the true remediation and  
6 preservation of Litekyan is contingent on the full recognition of the original landowners’  
7 Indigenous rights to their ancestral lands, and of all CHamoru People’s Indigenous  
8 rights to their lands, territories, and resources enshrined in the right to self-  
9 determination and Free, Prior and Informed Consent; now therefore, be it

10 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
11 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the DON and DOI to identify and utilize an  
12 alternative location for the Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated  
13 facilities corresponding to plots that are federally-held, disturbed, and outside the SDZs  
14 as to protect Litekyan from further cultural and environmental destruction; and be it  
15 further

16 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
17 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the DON and DOI to engage in meaningful  
18 collaboration with the original landowners and the Government of Guam, pursuant to  
19 the return of federally-occupied lands at Litekyan to the original landowners per their  
20 Indigenous rights and for the genuine protection of Litekyan; and be it further

21 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
22 behalf of the people of Guam, reaffirm the position of the Government of Guam  
23 stipulated in Article 10, Chapter 68 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated, relative to the  
24 termination of the federal government’s seizure of Litekyan (i.e. the Guam National  
25 Wildlife Refuge). Reference made to the Refuge and its associated facilities by I  
26 Liheslaturan Guåhan does not assume agreement with the US federal government’s

1 occupation, and is made with the express purpose to call for the protection and return  
2 of designated lands to the original landowners in concurrence with Article 10, Chapter  
3 68 of Title 21, Guam Code Annotated; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on  
5 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*  
6 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United  
7 States Congress, to join with *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in this call for the relocation of the  
8 Ritidian Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and its associated facilities, and for the ultimate  
9 return of *Litekyan* to the original landowners for the reasons stated herein; and be it  
10 further

11 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
12 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the U.S.  
13 President Joseph R. Biden Jr., U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris, U.S. Secretary of the  
14 Department of the Interior (DOI);) Deb Haaland; to the U.S. Department of the Navy  
15 (DON);) Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment) Karnig H.  
16 Ohannessian; to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS);) Director Martha  
17 Williams; to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS);) Director David Applegate; to the  
18 U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee Members and the U.S.  
19 Senate's ~~counterparts; to DOI Secretary Deb Haaland; to Deputy Assistant Secretary of~~  
20 ~~the Navy (Environment) Karnig H. Ohannessian; to USFWS Director Martha Williams;~~  
21 ~~to USGS Director David Applegate counterpart;~~ to the Honorable James Moylan, Guam  
22 Delegate to the United States Congress; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon  
23 Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA  
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY  
OF MONTH 2024.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary