

I MINA 'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2006 (Second) REGULAR SESSION

Resolution No. 201 (LS)

Introduced by:

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RELATIVE TO REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES SENATE AND THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ENSURE THAT THE TOTAL IMPACT OF THE U.S. MARINE RELOCATION TO GUAM IS FULLY AND PROPERLY ADDRESSED TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION AND BALANCING THE NEEDS OF GUAM'S CIVILIAN POPULATION AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF I MINA' BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Defense and the Federal Government have a moral and ethical obligation to bring Guam to the table to openly discuss the military relocation of marines from Okinawa to Guam and the impact this military move will have on the economic, cultural, social and environmental aspects of the island of Guam, and short of information critical to national security, the Department of Defense and the Federal Government should have no other reason to withhold information that would detrimentally affect the people of Guam and render the government even

more crippled to address serious issues compounding an already dire economic, cultural, social, environmental, and educational situation on the island; and

WHEREAS, the military relocation will have inevitable impact on the physical infrastructure of the island although some government of Guam officials have been briefed about the troop movement and the overall costs, a detailed breakdown and whether any portion of the funding will be allocated for off-base upgrades remains unknown; it is anticipated that of the \$10.3B committed for the move, the U.S. Government will present a nominal amount for the upgrade of infrastructure; however, indications are that the majority of the funds will be spent on base housing, improvements and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, some public discussions regarding infrastructure have occurred, there has been very little analysis of the socio-economic implications and the possible immediate, latent, and residual impact on the quality of life on Guam as a result of the military buildup and the proposed increase of active duty and civilian support personnel; and

WHEREAS, Guam's social, cultural and environmental resources will be detrimentally impacted by the military's decisions and actions, military officials must then recognize their moral and ethical obligation to be forthcoming with information so as to allow government of Guam officials an opportunity to prepare and properly plan in anticipation of the realignment, furthermore, to ensure the government of Guam has in place the means to address and mitigate these impacts, all concerns either direct or indirect

should be included in all meaningful discussions regarding the planning and implementation of this relocation; and

WHEREAS, although we welcome the potential economic gain as a result of the increase in defense personnel and spending, responsible management of our Island dictates that we do not sacrifice the viability of our primary industry, nor our ability to diversify our economic base; further, with limited resources and the existing high cost of living inherent to an island community, general increases in demand without addressing supply and 'pocketbook' issues will have an adverse effect on all residents across the entire socio-economic spectrum; and

WHEREAS, responsible management of our Island requires us to strike a balance between capitalizing on the potential growth of the economy through the increase in defense activity and addressing the challenges accompanied with that growth; all the while keeping a focused eye on improving the livability of our island and ensuring the long-term policy regime and economic tools necessary to sustain our livelihood and address "quality of life" issues such as the creation of new jobs for local employment carried out through programs that protects a fixed number of positions in support areas for the local civilian population; and

WHEREAS, Okinawa has spent many years dealing with the impacts created by U.S. defense personnel, and seeking solutions to the problems created by these impacts; Guam's challenge is now to anticipate potential issues and identify solutions, thereby setting the stage for cooperative and harmonious integration of our role as a national strategic defense asset, a desirable tropical destination, and a business-friendly regional economic hub,

thereby warranting constructive dialogue between the former host of these re-aligned military resources to improve Guam's ability to provide the necessary accommodations while maintaining our social and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the operation of the water systems on Guam for military and civilian populations both suffer the same challenges such as source water production, treatment, transmission and distribution create redundancies and is a major obstacle to adequate water service; the integration of these separate systems will augment production capacities, and will enhance the ability to move water where and when it is needed for both military and civilian customers; and

WHEREAS, Federal support is needed to provide the necessary framework in which Fena Lake and its associated water production and treatment facilities, as well as the extensive Navy waterworks utilities are integrated into an island-wide waterworks system; and, through a similar approach, support and technical expertise can be utilized to enhance other watersheds in southern Guam to provide additional production and treatment capacity to benefit the entire island; and

WHEREAS, with the increase in military assets, resources and support functions both within and beyond military gates, requires the need for reliable, consistent and quality power becomes more critical; and, although improved through the years, Guam's current power situation continues to be an area of concern, thus military and local cooperation will strengthen the island-wide distribution network, improving substation and related facilities, and attendant control systems through cooperative measures will increase reliability and quality of power to critical military and civilian areas; and

WHEREAS, the re-alignment and relocation of military assets, and the supporting labor force for construction activities will cause an increase in Guam's population and will impact Guam's ability to provide proper health care, thereby increasing the need for comprehensive healthcare services offered by an already overburdened civilian hospital; Guam must work with the federal government to provide new facilities, equipment and supplies, pharmaceuticals, recruitment support, training and staff to meet the basic health care needs of the island's growing population as well as support for military personnel; and

WHEREAS, the military can assist Guam establish with the federal government cooperative programs with regional partners for preventive care, health education and resource sharing to fill Guam's role as a regional medical hub, more importantly, to partner with the military and the federal government to provide our veterans with an adequate health care facility, proper access to services; and federal support for a complete veteran's hospital; and

WHEREAS, Guam's military and civilian population face short and long term problems with the issue of solid waste management, and Navy and Air Force landfills are rapidly nearing capacity, albeit a developed waste reduction and recycling program, the current solid waste management crisis calls for a partnership of all parties to protect and preserve our island's environment, and for the health and welfare of all persons, and learn from the practice in Okinawa of the recycling, re-use and waste reduction facilities which have greatly diminished its reliance on traditional disposal methods (land filling); hence, a partnership to develop a program is needed for

regional cooperation between all parties of the re-alignment in bringing together the knowledge, expertise and resources to implement such a needed program for the benefit of the civilian and military populations; and

WHEREAS, the military buildup will drastically increase Guam's port traffic and test available space for port operations; the federal government should support and assist Guam in the effort to improve its port and provide additional wharf space and upgrade gantry cranes for a fully modernized port operation; and

WHEREAS, in order to enhance our tourism market, and to support cooperative efforts with Okinawa, Guam should seek additional airline routes and work with the Japanese government to evaluate all possible options for routes from Okinawa and perhaps from Haneda airport in Tokyo as well; and

WHEREAS, at present, the University of Guam is unable to offer courses on base to military personnel and their dependents, preventing UOG from meeting the academic needs of military personnel and their dependents and from having direct access to individuals within the University's service area; making it the only U.S.-accredited university unable to offer its educational services within its service area; and

WHEREAS, the Guam Legislature previously passed Resolution No. 127 to request that Civilian Infrastructure Upgrade Costs be included in any cost estimate to transfer Marines from Okinawa to Guam and to include War Reparations as cost elements in any discussion of the transfer; and

WHEREAS, a growing population requires corresponding growth in all relevant sectors of public service, including public safety facilities; even with current population levels, public safety and corrections agencies have

insufficient manpower and facilities to meet required demand for services; and an upgrade of police and fire communications systems, vehicles, stations and correctional facilities is imperative in maintaining public safety; and

WHEREAS, the increase in personnel will present definite impacts to Guam's transportation network; as the military uses this network for inter-base transportation, alternative routes for critical items should be established and maintained; and

WHEREAS, given our limited land area and the increase in fuel prices, a partnership between Guam and the federal government should be established to create a light-rail system linking AAFB and Big Navy, with three regional bus depots in the north, central and southern population centers; this will provide alternative transportation for base and civilian employees in the effort to minimize traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, a major issue affecting quality of life for residents and the quality of experience of our visitors is the availability of a broad range of community and cultural attractions; the expanded population base from which such attractions can draw support sets the stage for success and popularity; however, support from all parties to the re-alignment is needed in order to plan and implement a program for expanding the number and variety of attractions, such as museums, performing arts centers, aquariums and historic/cultural sites. Increasing the availability of these attractions allows local, military and visitor populations to share their cultures, come together as citizens of a global community and enhance their experiences of Guam as a community; and

WHEREAS, a concerted effort is needed between federal, local and regional governments to bring expertise to bear the problems faced by communities in the immediate vicinity of military bases in terms of noise and air pollution impacts; a retrofit program for existing homes and building construction enhancements for new homes in these areas will go a long way in ensuring neighborhoods and military operations can peacefully co-exist; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the military and civilian communities co-exist peacefully, the federal government should address a number of "equality of life" issues that currently make the people of Guam feel like "second-class citizens," including issues such as war reparations, political status, a voting member of Congress, the prohibitive Jones Act and Cabotage reforms, the return of excess lands without conditions, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the unilateral decision of the U.S. Government to waive any rights and claims the people of Guam may have had in seeking reparations for their treatment under Japanese occupation has left Guam's golden generation with deep seated wounds and a lack of closure; an increase in Guam's burden in supporting the U.S. mission for the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty should not occur without addressing this long-standing issue among the elders of the local population; and

WHEREAS, Guam's ability to insure its' future economic and social prosperity can only be assured with the support of the U.S. Government in immediately recognizing and accepting Guam's political status; and

WHEREAS, as the ‘Tip of the Spear’, Guam’s strategic value and importance to the mission of the United States in regional security and national defense will undoubtedly require debate and decisions in Congress which affect the people of Guam and for which our people need a voice and a vote; we can no longer be relegated to the role of concerned outsider with no means to determine our own fate; and

WHEREAS, Cabotage prevents foreign carriers from offering competitive rates on Guam-U.S. travel and trade, whether flying directly or with an intermediate foreign stop; Guam is considered domestic, although it lies 3,800 miles beyond the declared customs zone of the United States and beyond the range of aircraft used on most domestic routes; and Congress deregulated the domestic airline industry to allow companies to compete in an open market, and the US State Department negotiates “open skies” agreements around the world, but neither policy brings competitive fares or cargo rates to Guam-U.S. travel and trade, thereby effectively increasing the cost of American consumer goods and services on Guam, and stifling economic development of Guam and Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, until Guam fully exercises political self-determination, the US remains obligated to the United Nations to develop Guam’s economy through transportation policy that benefits Guam’s inhabitants, rather than serve national interests at the expense of the people of Guam; the federal government must exempt Guam from Cabotage in order to provide equitable fares to Guam residents and foster economic development;

WHEREAS, applying the Jones Act on Guam does little to serve its intended purposes and only increases the cost of living for the people of

Guam; with rising fuel costs and impending increases in demand for consumer goods, relief is needed at all possible fronts; and repealing the Jones Act for Guam is a necessary step in establishing equitable trade practices to decrease the cost of living for our residents; and

WHEREAS, island communities are challenged by the natural scarcity of real estate, which is usually at odds with the needs of increased economic growth; unplanned and uncoordinated land use development results in tense situations where either the communities encroach on nearby military activities or where military installations grow to existing communities; and in either case there is an uncomfortable and unsafe separation between the community and the military facility; and

WHEREAS, federal defense officials must work with Guam to establish or maintain safe buffers and diffuse tension through the return of unused or obsolete defense properties/installations without conditions; and

WHEREAS, the separation of Guam Public Schools and Department of Defense Schools has created a social separation between the host community and hosted community within Guam; although the interest in establishing the best learning environment possible for children is understandable, the manner in which this has been pursued, has been divisive rather than unifying, fractional rather than integrated, compounded by the migration of the best teachers from the local system into the DODEA system; and

WHEREAS, defense officials must work with Guam, its congressional delegate, and regional players to define an integrated and long-term solution to the growing rift between the educational quality of local children versus military dependents, in terms of facilities, staffing recruitment and resources;

a single integrated school system with a pool of resources supported the local and national government, as well as regional contributors, is a possible and plausible alternative; and

WHEREAS, establishment of necessary tax policy is critical to guarantee Guam's ability to develop and expand our economic base is a top priority for supporting the re-alignment efforts; Guam must look beyond the short-term entitlements of a defense driven construction boom and develop its own capabilities to spur investment and develop new industries for sustainable long-term economic growth; as well as seek US support for Section 936 status as a remote, off-shore territory with marginal impact on mainland US interests; and

WHEREAS, Federal contractors who provide services exclusively on military bases do not contribute to the local tax system, but enjoy the same amenities, services, and access to public facilities as taxpaying Guam residents and visitors warrants Guam to make assessments for equitable contributions to the local government for the impacts that such businesses and their employees create; and

WHEREAS, in order to develop and enhance our tourism industry, Guam must obtain federal support for visa waiver programs to take advantage of anticipated increases in international flights and to access growing markets; and

WHEREAS, as Americans, our elder residents of Guam are not afforded the same benefits as those in the other territories and states; the federal government should provide full access to Medicare and Medicaid benefits for all citizens regardless of where they take residence; and

WHEREAS, the many impacts that can be expected as part of the realignment of U.S. Marines to our home will all have an associated cost; the U.S. government can address these impacts in part by forgiveness of debt for the government of Guam in lieu of direct appropriations; and

WHEREAS, each year the government of Guam receives a portion of a large pool of funds intended to address impacts to state and territorial governments because of the Compact of Free Association; Guam's allotment of these funds is determined by an outdated and unrealistic formula; and the federal government must re-evaluate this formula and provide an equitable adjustment for our community; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should ensure that federal funding for territorial highway projects are increased proportionally with the demands that will be placed on those highways by the increase in military activities, as well as, the resulting increase in island population; and

WHEREAS, the federal government should give Guam-based corporations preference in any public private partnerships for any leaseback developments; and

WHEREAS, a Government of Guam - Military Liaison Coordinator should be appointed by the Governor to be the primary contact person with the Military representative for all Government-Military matters that arise on a daily basis during the Marine relocation process; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina 'Bente Ocho na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on behalf of the people of Guam does hereby request that in light of the re-location of 8,000 U.S. Marines and their dependents to Guam, the U.S. Congress ensure

that the impact of this relocation is fully addressed by working with the government of Guam and supporting the request for the following provisions:

- * Establish a program to guarantee a fixed number of employment positions in military support areas for the local civilian population;
- * Integration of and Upgrade to Existing Water Systems;
- * Upgrades of Power System Infrastructure;
- * Provide new facilities, equipment and supplies, pharmaceuticals, recruitment support, training and staff to meet the basic health care needs of the island;
- * Establish cooperative programs with regional partners for preventive care, health education and resource sharing to fill Guam's role as a regional medical hub;
- * Establish a complete veteran's hospital;
- * Establish Solid Waste Management and Recycling Programs to support increased demand;
- * Support improvements to Guam's Commercial Port;
- * Help establish additional airline routes from Okinawa and Haneda airport in Tokyo;
- * Support upgrades to Public Safety facilities, communications systems, and vehicles;
- * Establish a light-rail system linking AAFB and Big Navy, with three regional bus depots in the north, central and southern population centers;

- * Support a program for expanding the number and variety of attractions, such as museums, performing arts centers, aquariums and historic/cultural sites;
- * Allow the University of Guam to offer academic courses, both credit and non-credit, on Guam's military bases.
- * Establish a retrofit program for existing homes and building construction enhancements for new homes to help reduce pollution;
- * Address War Reparations for World War II;
- * Address Guam's Political Status;
- * Grant Guam a Voting Member of Congress;
- * Exempt Guam from Cabotage;
- * Repeal Jones Act for Guam;
- * Return of excess federal or military lands with no conditions;
- * Develop an Integrated School System and long-term educational program;
- * Grant Guam Section 936 status as a remote, off-shore territory with marginal impact on mainland US interests;
- * Allow the equitable taxing of Federal Contractors on Base for the impacts that such businesses and their employees create;
- * Grant Guam Visa Waiver Enhancements for Increased Tourism;
- * Lift Caps on Medicare and Medicaid;
- * Grant Debt Forgiveness to Guam;
- * Re-evaluate Compact-Impact Formula and provide an equitable adjustment for Guam;

- * Increase federal funding for territorial highway projects to support increased population demands;
- * Grant Guam-based corporations preference in any public private partnerships for any leaseback developments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States of America; to the Chairpersons of the Armed Forces Committees of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives; to the Secretary of Defense; to the Secretary of the Navy; to the Secretary of State; to the Secretary of the Interior; to Mikio Shimoji, Representative, Japan National Diet; to the Governor, Okinawa Prefecture; to the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly; Guam's Congressional Delegate; and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE __ DAY OF _____, 2006.

MARK FORBES
Speaker

EDWARD J.B. CALVO
Senator and Secretary of the Legislature