

I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2008 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 196 (EC)

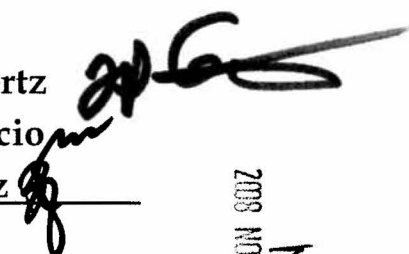
As substituted by the author

Introduced by:

J.P. Guthertz

R.J. Respicio

B.J.F. Cruz



2008 NOV 18 AM 10:08
P.A.M.

Relative to expressing opposition to the proposal of the United States Federal Government to designate the Marianas Trench as a National Marine Monument.

BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government has proposed that an area encompassing 115,000 square miles of ocean surrounding the three northernmost islands of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI): Asuncion (Songschool), Maug (Longeiraw), and Uracas (Schughppul), be designated as the Marianas Trench Monument; and

WHEREAS, the United States is pursuing this monument designation for the area without providing an avenue for Guam's self determination process; and

WHEREAS, as a territory of the United States, Guam is listed by the United Nations as one of earth's 16 remaining non-self governing areas; and

WHEREAS, each year our State Department reports to the United Nations on what the United States is doing to bring Guam to self-government; and

WHEREAS, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further agrees that it is unjust for President George Bush to attempt to leave an environmental legacy in the White House by way of a National Marine Monument for the Marianas Trench without first receiving full input from stakeholders in Guam; and

WHEREAS, a more appropriate and fitting legacy for President Bush would have been to take steps to further the development of self-determination and self-government for the people of Guam; and

WHEREAS, as stated in *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* Resolution No. 140 (LS), "...the islands of Micronesia are all communities that draw their economic livelihood, spiritual well-being and civic strength from their God-given, tropical ocean-based environments, and many common activities focus on environmental protection and sustainable development;" and

WHEREAS, the national marine proposal offers a protectionist/preservationist approach, instead of sustainable use approach, which is one of the many objectives advocated in Guam's resolution No. 140 (LS); and

WHEREAS, The indigenous people of Guam have been fishing in the waters surrounding the Marianas Islands for some 4,000 years and have not damaged the natural resources, and are considered good stewards of our ocean environment; and

WHEREAS, in that light, the people of Guam object to having the Marianas Trench and its surrounding waters recognized as national marine monument without full consultation and input with all stakeholders and interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the people of Guam support continuation of resources management authority by the Magnuson-Stevenson Act, involving the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and not having such responsibilities transferred to the National Marine Sanctuary Program or other federal agencies, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby stand in opposition to the proposal of the Federal Government to recognize the Marianas Trench as a National Marine Monument, and be it further

RESOLVED, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recommend that the Federal Government continue to have a comprehensive dialogue with all stakeholders and involved parties that ensures a balance of environmental, cultural, political, and economic considerations prior to proposing any national marine monument that will adversely effect Guam and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Speaker of the 29th Guam Legislature certify, and the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

The Honorable James L. Connaughton, Chairman of Council of Environmental Quality; the Honorable Juan B. Tudela, Mayor of Saipan; the Honorable members of the Western Council of Micronesian Chief Executives and the Micronesian Presidents' Summits; to the Honorable Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; to His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau; to His Excellency Manny Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; to His Excellency Iroij Litokwa Tomeing, President of the Republic of the Marshall Island; to the Honorable Sabestian Anefel, Governor of Yap; to Guam's Delegate to Congress, The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and to the Honorable Felix P. Camacho, *I Maga'lahaen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'BENTE NUEBI NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008.