

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

Resolution No. <sup>196</sup> (EC)

Introduced by:

J.P. Guthertz  
R.J. Respicio  
B.J.F. Cruz

2008 NOV 14 PM 3:45

*Penman*

Relative to supporting the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and Carolinian Affairs Advisory Committee Resolution No. 2008-001 in opposition to the proposal of the United States Federal Government to recognize the Marianas Trench as a National Marine Monument.

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

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

8 WHEREAS, the Unites States is pursuing this monument designation  
9 for the area without either recognizing the indigenous native classification  
10 for descendants of CNMI inhabitants, or providing an avenue for Guam's  
11 self determination process; and

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

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

1           **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* further agrees that it is unjust for  
2 President George Bush to attempt to leave an environmental legacy in the  
3 White House by way of a National Marine Monument for the Marianas  
4 Trench without first receiving full input from stakeholders in the CNMI,  
5 Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the  
6 surrounding territories in the Pacific region; and

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

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

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

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

23           **WHEREAS**, in that light, the people of Guam reach out and join our  
24 neighboring islanders to take a cohesive stand in support of their objections  
25 of having the Marianas Trench and its surrounding waters recognized as  
26 national marine monument without full consultation and input with all  
27 stakeholders and interested parties; and

28           **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam support continuation of resources  
29 management authority over the Northern Mariana Islands being governed

1 by the Magnuson-Stevenson Act, involving the National Marine Fisheries  
2 Service and the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council  
3 and not having such responsibilities transferred to the National Marine  
4 Sanctuary Program or other federal agencies, now, therefore be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
6 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, agree and support CNMI  
7 Resolution No. 2008-001 in opposition to the proposal of the Federal  
8 Government to recognize the Marianas Trench as a National Marine  
9 Monument, and to support all who are objecting to the designation of any  
10 national marine monument within the waters of the Northern Mariana  
11 Islands; and be it further

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

19 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
20 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express support for the CNMI  
21 Government's position that the designation of the CNMI marine monument  
22 would be a permanent and nearly irrevocable Federal action that rightfully  
23 should require the consideration of the needs and opinions of the People of  
24 the CNMI and the potential of lost opportunities for economic benefit to the  
25 CNMI; and be it further

26 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
27 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express support for the statement  
28 described in the Carolinian Affairs Advisory Committee Resolution No.  
29 2008-001 that states, "...that limited consultative discussions on just

1 compensation and access for the “CNMI Descent” rights and ownership of  
2 land including the ocean is a breach of the Covenant, which is an agreement  
3 entered into between the United States government and the government  
4 and people of the Northern Mariana Islands;” and be it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina’Bente Nuebi Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does  
6 hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the Federal  
7 Government recognize the “CNMI Descent” traditional rights as owners of  
8 the land and ocean and who should be parties of equal status; and be it  
9 further

10 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the 29<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature certify, and  
11 the Secretary of the Legislature attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies  
12 of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Benigno R. Fitial,  
13 Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; The  
14 Honorable James L. Connaughton, Chairman of Council of Environmental  
15 Quality; the Honorable Juan B. Tudela, Mayor of Saipan; the Honorable  
16 members of the Western Council of Micronesian Chief Executives and the  
17 Micronesian Presidents’ Summits; to the Honorable Ban Ki-moon,  
18 Secretary-General of the United Nations; to His Excellency Tommy E.  
19 Remengesau, President of the Republic of Palau; to His Excellency Manny  
20 Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia; to His Excellency Iroij  
21 Litokwa Tomeing, President of the Republic of the Marshall Island; to the  
22 Honorable Sabestian Anefel, Governor of Yap; to Guam’s Delegate to  
23 Congress, The Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, and to the Honorable Felix  
24 P. Camacho, *I Maga’lahen Guåhan*.

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

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**JUDITH T. WONPAT**  
**Speaker**

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**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
**Senator and**  
**Legislative Secretary**