


I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
179-37 (LS)	Jesse A. Lujan Chris Barnett Sabina Flores Perez Roy A. B. Quinata Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas Joanne Brown William A. Parkinson Telo T. Taitague Christopher M. Dueñas Frank Blas, Jr. Tina Rose Muña Barnes Joe S. San Agustin Therese M. Terlaje Thomas J. Fisher	Relative to requesting the United States Congress and the Biden Administration to favorably consider providing multi-year funding needed to harden Guam's infrastructure to meet the goals of installation resiliency and ensure Guam is capable of withstanding future natural and manmade threats and disasters.	8/29/23 10:39 a.m.							

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

Resolution No. 179-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

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Sabina Flores Perez 
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Relative to requesting the United States Congress and the Biden Administration to favorably consider providing multi-year funding needed to harden Guam's infrastructure to meet the goals of installation resiliency and ensure Guam is capable of withstanding future natural and manmade threats and disasters.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the 2022 National Security Strategy describes the Indo-Pacific as
4 the “epicenter of 21st Century Geopolitics” and the 2022 Quadrennial Defense Review
5 reaffirmed Guam as one of the most critical operating bases for U.S. efforts to maintain
6 a free and open Indo Pacific Region, allowing Washington D.C. to project power 8,000

1 miles to the west right into the heart of the so-called “second island chain” which is
2 absolutely critical to sustaining and strengthening U.S. deterrence against China; and

3 **WHEREAS**, President Joseph Biden recently stated, “Cybersecurity is essential
4 to the basic functioning of our economy, the operation of our critical infrastructure, the
5 strength of our democracy and democratic institutions, the privacy of our data and
6 communications, and our national defense;” and

7 **WHEREAS**, Microsoft recently reported that Chinese hackers attacked and
8 interrupted part of the island’s telecommunications network as well as infiltrated
9 multiple Guam-based companies’ internal networks. The hackers disrupted local
10 services and business operations. Until Microsoft uncovered and announced the
11 cyberattack, the vast majority of Guam residents were unaware of the cause and reason
12 for the disrupted telecommunications services the island experienced during that period;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, in May of 2023, Guam was struck by Typhoon Mawar, a category
15 4 storm that caused significant damage to the island including critical water, power and
16 communications infrastructure underpinning civilian and military operations; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Guam lies in a region of the Pacific that has a long history of
18 typhoon strikes and the National Weather Service has affirmed that an El Nino weather
19 pattern and warmer ocean temperatures in 2023 are likely to bring more catastrophic
20 typhoons to the region which are viewed as a threat multiplier that must be mitigated;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, a major US media outlet recently described the Mawar typhoon
23 recovery situation on Guam as "...getting embarrassing" and went on to write "Guam's
24 halting performance stands in stark contrast to Florida's relatively rapid recovery after
25 a 2022 hit by Hurricane Ian, a stronger Category 5 storm. In an assessment of the post-
26 Ian recovery effort, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reported that
27 Florida's communication lifelines were stabilized within two days of landfall. Energy
28 lifelines were stabilized within nine days, and food, water, and shelter lifelines were

1 stabilized after 19 days." The article also went on to point out that Florida only needed
2 two weeks to restore power to 2.6 million accounts; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Congressional Research Service in June of 2023 issued a report
4 on US Defense Infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific highlighting the critical importance of
5 reinforcing and building out a resilient security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region,
6 with Guam as the strategic hub for US military operation and further reinforcing that
7 one of the most cost-effective ways to improve base resilience are robust passive
8 defenses including basic infrastructure hardening; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Defense Department has committed to build an extensive
10 Missile Defense System at over \$1.5 billion, to protect Guam and its assets; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense has already begun the development of
12 mobile nuclear microreactors for potential use in Guam to supplement power
13 generation. The Department of Defense clearly recognizes the deficiencies and
14 limitations of Guam's current power generation and electrical grid. The need to develop
15 microreactors as an option demonstrates how significant and crucial it is to improve and
16 harden Guam's power generation and electrical grid.

17 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense has invested billions more in Guam in
18 upgrades and operations for Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Station and soon the first
19 new Marine Base in 70 years, with over \$4 billion more in current NDAA authorizations
20 set to be spent on Guam, and

21 **WHEREAS**, the most critical element of installation resiliency is the hardening
22 and resiliency of the electricity, water and communications infrastructure on Guam that
23 is relied upon by the military and civilian community alike and underpins all operations
24 of all US Armed Forces, and the missile defense system; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Guam should not be treated as backwater or an afterthought of the
26 U.S. Congress and the Executive Branch. The rapid improvement and hardening of
27 Guam's power and water infrastructure is long overdue. The Federal Government and
28 the U.S. Military should invest the money necessary to put all main power lines

1 underground and build concrete bunkers over all power-generating facilities as a matter
2 of national security; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Power Authority and the Guam Waterworks Authority,
4 which service the military and civilian populations, have developed plans to place the
5 electrical system underground and harden water production and distribution systems
6 thus protecting them from powerful typhoons which are a recurring and ongoing threat
7 faced by the island and from any other natural or man-made disasters that may threaten
8 Guam; and

9 **WHEREAS**, hardening the power system will also contribute to resiliency of
10 critical internet and communications systems to withstand any potential natural or man-
11 made disasters that may occur; and

12 **WHEREAS**, with China setting Guam directly in their sights for both missile
13 strikes and cyberattacks, and as the "Tip of the Spear" for the U.S. Military in the Indo-
14 Pacific region, Guam must be fortified and our infrastructure upgraded. *I Liheslaturan*
15 *Guåhan* believes additional funding for major improvements and the hardening of
16 Guam's power system should be included in upcoming National Defense Authorization
17 Acts; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the limited population of Guam and existing high cost of living
19 caused by its geographic location and need to adhere to policies that impact its economy
20 make it economically unfeasible for the local civilian population to shoulder the cost of
21 hardening the infrastructure; and

22 **WHEREAS**, it is in the interests of the Department of Defense to assist Guam in
23 obtaining funding to improve infrastructure resiliency through the hardening of Guam's
24 power, water and communications systems, which will result in improved force
25 readiness and significant cost savings during future storm recovery efforts for the
26 Department of Defense and all other federal agencies involved in said efforts, now
27 therefore be it

28 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
29 on behalf of the people of Guam, request that the United States Congress and the Biden

1 Administration favorably consider providing multi-year funding needed to harden
2 Guam’s infrastructure to meet the goals of installation resiliency and ensure Guam is
3 capable of withstanding future natural and manmade threats and disasters; and be it
4 further

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
6 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
7 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the Honorable Lloyd Austin,
8 Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland
9 Security; the Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Kevin
10 McCarthy, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, the Honorable Charles
11 Schumer, Senate Majority Leader; the Honorable Mike Rodgers, House Armed
12 Services Committee Chairman; the Honorable Jack Reed, Senate Armed Services
13 Committee Chairman; the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam’s Delegate to Congress;
14 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 2023.

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary