

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
94-36 (LS)	Sabina Flores Perez Clynton E. Ridgell	Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dâno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.	5/21/21 4:39 p.m.			5/25/21 9:53 a.m.	Author	6/18/21 4:00 p.m.	6/25/21 12:27 p.m.	



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

June 24, 2021

The Honorable Therese M. Terlaje

Speaker

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)

Håfa adai Speaker Terlaje,

Transmitted herewith is the Author's Report on **Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)** – Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell – “Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.”

Si Yu'os ma'åse',

Sabina Flores Perez
Sabina Flores Perez

COMMITTEE ON RULES

RECEIVED:

June 24, 2021

3:29 P.M.



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

AUTHOR'S REPORT

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)

**Introduced by: Sabina Flores Perez,
Clynton E. Ridgell**

**“Relative to supporting Government of
Guam agency efforts to secure federal
technical assistance and funding to eradicate
snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos
Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's
native species, and to commit to removing
brown treesnakes from Guåhan.”**



Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

GUAM CONGRESS BUILDING
163 CHALAN SANTO PAPA
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96910
TEL 671-472-2461
COR@GUAMLEGISLATURE.ORG

May 24, 2021

MEMO

To: Rennae Meno
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Ana Won Pat-Borja
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Re: Referral of Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)

Buenas yan Håfa adai,

As per my authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)** – Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell – “Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from *Dåno'*, also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover *Guåhan's* native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from *Guåhan*.”

Please ensure that the subject resolution is referred to **Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Author of Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)**.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mary Maravilla, Committee on Rules Director at 472-2461.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
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Charlene Flores <charlene@senatorperez.org>

1st Notice of Virtual Public Hearing: Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>

Fri, Jun 11, 2021 at 12:46 PM

To: reporters@kuam.com, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, nestor@kuam.com, Chris Barnett <malafunkshun@kuam.com>, joan@kuam.com, mindy@postguam.com, editor@postguam.com, John O'Connor <john@postguam.com>, Nick Delgado <nick@postguam.com>, reporters@postguam.com, news@sorensenmediagroup.com, news@guampdn.com, news@k57.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, haidee@postguam.com, kstokish@gmail.com, editor@pacificislandtimes.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com>, reporter2@glimpsesofofguam.com, Guam Progress <guamprogress@yahoo.com>, colinperez@gmail.com, Gabejereza@gmail.com, "Alexandra Elizabeth T. Benavente" <aebenavente@gdoe.net>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, mar_vic_cagurangan@yahoo.com, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <newsdirector@kuam.com>, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, news@kanditnews.com

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, "Leevin Camacho (ag@oagguam.org)" <ag@oagguam.org>, Guam MIS <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Geri Leon Guerrero <geri@senatorperez.org>, "Cara C. Mays" <cara@senatorperez.org>

June 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez

Subject: 1st Notice of Virtual Public Hearing: Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

The Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez will be conducting a virtual public hearing on **Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** This virtual public hearing will take place via Zoom Video Conference platform. The agenda is as follows:

4:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at office@senatorperez.org or via phone at 989-2968, no later than June 16, 2021, for further guidance.

Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez and will be accepted via hand delivery to our office, our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at [163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910](#), or via email to office@senatorperez.org, no later than 4pm June 22, 2021. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at 989-2968.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 112-4, 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!

Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Evan San Nicolas

Office Manager

--

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

O: 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, First Floor, Terlaje Professional Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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E: office@senatorperez.org

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2 attachments



1st Notice Memo - Resolution.pdf

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Res. No. 94-36 (LS).pdf

994K



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

June 11, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez *SFP*

Subject: **1st Notice of Virtual Public Hearing: Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

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LIFESTYLE

Cooler than the other side of the pillow, here we catch up with trends, celebrities, fashion and everything else to bring us closer to super stardom. Send us your cosmetic tips at editor@postguam.com.

DOMESTIC DUTIES continued from page 36

mother, who had certain beliefs and notions about how you should be as a woman, so that still lives there," said Am. "It's still something I'm trying to work through."

Before the pandemic, the couple found a balance they liked, one largely driven by their work schedules.

Williams would take charge of cooking and cleaning on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, while Am, who worked from home on Tuesday and Thursdays, took the lead on those days.

But that balance flew out the window once Williams' office shut down and he began working from home full time. As an essential worker, Am's work schedule ramped up.

To Williams, a city planner, taking on more work at home didn't require a conversation, it was just common sense.

"I just feel like my job is like, 90% easier than hers," Williams explained. "I look at a screen all day and I write congestion reports."

The pandemic also made them highly sensitive to each other's health and safety. Williams worried constantly that Am might fall sick. Am worried about getting sick and passing it on to Williams. For months, Am would take off her scrubs at the door, only touching Williams after taking a shower.

Cut off from other family members, they were acutely aware that they only had each other, Williams said.

"And so we had to cling to each other."

Welcome changes

Locked down with only your partner or your family, many Americans navigated new levels of intimacy – learning, sometimes in excruciating detail, what

irritates, motivates and exhausts each other.

In September 2020, the annual American Family Survey, a joint effort by the Deseret News and the Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy at Brigham Young University, found that married people reported largely positive views of their own marriages, with 43% saying their relationships had grown stronger during the pandemic. Another 48% said they were "about their same."

Overall, fewer married people (29%) reported feeling that their marriage was in trouble in 2020 than the year before (40%).

This is common in major crises, Brad Wilcox, a professor of sociology at the University of Virginia who served as an adviser on the survey, told the Deseret News. The Great Recession, for all its turmoil, had a similar impact on many couples.

Before the pandemic, Yeti Ajayi-Obe and Nyame Smith were already charting a major life change: a cross-country move from Connecticut to Tucson. Months before the first coronavirus cases were reported in the United States, Ajayi-Obe began working remotely, only seeing Smith, her boyfriend, in the mornings and evenings.

Smith, an engineer, had long days because of an hour-long commute, and was trying to settle into a new job. It was an isolating time for Ajayi-Obe.

"I felt like the only thing I did was sit on my computer, work for the man, and then work for myself, and then clean and tidy up all this other stuff because I was home," said Ajayi-Obe, a trade systems analyst who also does mental health advocacy. On top of that, Ajayi-Obe, who is Nigerian British, said she was constantly on edge because of

racism she encountered.

Smith chalked up some of their early arguments to not cleaning up enough when they first moved in together. But Ajayi-Obe actually enjoyed cleaning, she said – a self-described germaphobe, she looked forward to the alone time. Looking back on that period, Ajayi-Obe wondered if her loneliness influenced those arguments, which she described as "nerve-racking."

"I feel like every woman has this fear of being a nag."

Then Smith's office closed and he began working at home full time. At first were the physical adjustments: the living room now housed Smith's office set up, and in a small apartment, they had to be mindful of each other's work habits and Zoom calls – if a toilet flushed, or if Smith blasted music in the shower, chances are their co-workers could hear.

But by and large, the changes were welcome. Now that the home was also his office, Smith became more proactive with cleaning the living room and kitchen because he found it hard to be productive in a cluttered space.

They also became, in small but significant ways, more visible to each other – much more aware of each other's shifting moods and therefore, more responsive.

Now, they can't imagine going back to their pre-pandemic work routines.

Smith can't imagine slogging through hour-long commutes five days a week – not when he knows he can get his job done at home. Ajayi-Obe said she is mentally preparing herself for Smith to be around less: Who will she talk to all day? What will happen to their midday walks?

Before the pandemic, "I used to joke around all the time, like, 'You're my boyfriend, you're not my friend,'" "

she said. "And he's become my best friend."

Ajayi-Obe and Smith aren't alone. Ariane Holm Le Chevallier and Gabe Le Chevallier, the couple from Portland, Ore., are also grateful for the reset. Though they are a bit anxious about falling into old routines – the arguments, the resentment – navigating the highs and lows of the pandemic has made them more confident in their ability to chart the reopening. Gabe hopes to work from home – and cook – more frequently.

Some advice

For couples anxious about the reopening and the inevitable changes it will bring to routines and relationships, Rodsky, the author and relationship expert, has some advice.

She recommends couples completely reimagine how they approach the home, focusing on boundaries, systems and communications – the same structures many take for granted at work. They should be guided by some core principles, she said: that each deserves as much choice over their time as the other, and each is a stakeholder in the home.

"It doesn't have to be 50-50 because that's scorekeeping, and nobody even knows what that means," said Rodsky.

Over the course of her career, Rodsky has found one question particularly clarifying – one that was salient for many couples during the pandemic, when they were tethered to homes that had become workplaces, classrooms, day cares and sanctuaries.

"What would happen if we treat our homes as our most important organization?"

This story first appeared in The Washington Post's The Lily publication.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR
TERMINAL HIGH-ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE (THAAD)
ADDITIONAL FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, GUAM**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice of availability of its Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of additional facilities and infrastructure in support of the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) ballistic missile defense battery in Guam. Joint Region Marianas is the Action Proponent on behalf of the U.S. Army, who would continue to operate the facility.

The Navy has determined the project would result in less than significant impacts on the quality of the human or natural environment. The Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) provides analyses of environmental consequences of the action. The Final Supplemental EA and FONSI are available for public download for a 30-day period at:

<https://www.guamthaaidea.com>

For additional information please contact: Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Marianas, ATTN: EV2, NEPA Subject Matter Expert, PSC 455 Box 195, FPO AP 96540-2937.
e-Mail: THAAD_SEA_INQUIRIES@gmail.com

**SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

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

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL HEARING • FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021**9:30 P.M.**

General Services Agency Annual Report in compliance with 56GCA §5248, Relative to all contracts made under §5214 Sole Source Procurement and §5215 Emergency Procurement for Calendar Year 2020 (January to December).

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING • FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021**1:30 P.M.**

Executive Appointment of Attorney Minakshi V. Hemlani to serve as a Member of the Guam Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors.

Executive Appointment of Ms. Alice P. Sebastian-Cruz to serve as a Member (Classified Employee, Real Estate Licensing Division, DRT - Representative) of the Guam Real Estate Commission.

Executive Appointment of Attorney Steven Carrara to serve as a Member of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors.

Bill No. 149-36 (COR) - Sabina Flores Perez - AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK AS TRANSMITTED BY THE GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

4:00 P.M.

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dāno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at office@senatorperez.org or via phone at 989-2968, no later than June 16, 2021, for further guidance. Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our office, our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or via email to office@senatorperez.org, no later than 4pm June 22, 2021. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at 989-2968.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, G1A Channel 21, Docomo Channel 112-4, and stream online via iLibesaturan 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!



Charlene Flores <charlene@senatorperez.org>

2nd Notice of Virtual Public Hearing: Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>

Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 8:00 AM

To: reporters@kuam.com, Sabrina Salas Matanane <sabrina@kuam.com>, nestor@kuam.com, Chris Barnett <malafunkshun@kuam.com>, joan@kuam.com, mindy@postguam.com, editor@postguam.com, John O'Connor <john@postguam.com>, Nick Delgado <nick@postguam.com>, reporters@postguam.com, news@sorensenmediagroup.com, news@guampdn.com, news@k57.com, rlimtiaco@guampdn.com, haidee@postguam.com, kstokish@gmail.com, editor@pacificislandtimes.com, Maureen Maratita <publisher@glimpsesofofguam.com>, reporter2@glimpsesofofguam.com, Guam Progress <guamprogress@yahoo.com>, colinperez@gmail.com, Gabejereza@gmail.com, "Alexandra Elizabeth T. Benavente" <aebenavente@gdoe.net>, Mar-Vic Cagurangan <publisher@pacificislandtimes.com>, mar_vic_cagurangan@yahoo.com, Jason Salas <jason@kuam.com>, Sabrina Salas Matanane <newsdirector@kuam.com>, slimtiaco@guampdn.com, raygibsonshow@gmail.com, pattiontheradio@yahoo.com, news@kanditnews.com

Cc: phnotice@guamlegislature.org, "Leevin Camacho (ag@oagguam.org)" <ag@oagguam.org>, Guam MIS <mis@guamlegislature.org>, Geri Leon Guerrero <geri@senatorperez.org>

June 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez

Subject: 2nd Notice of Virtual Public Hearing: Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

The Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez will be conducting a virtual public hearing on **Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.** This virtual public hearing will take place via Zoom Video Conference platform. The agenda is as follows:

4:00 p.m.

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Si Yu'os Ma'åse,
Evan San Nicolas
Office Manager

Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

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

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

36th Guam Legislature

O: 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, First Floor, Terlaje Professional Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

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2 attachments



Res. No. 94-36 (LS).pdf

994K



2nd Notice Memo - Resolution.pdf

213K



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

June 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media

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NAVFAC Marianas: After artifacts collected, historic sites bulldozed

By Phill Leon Guerrero
phill@postguam.com

The military on Guam has confirmed historic sites found within infrastructure projects related to the relocation of Marines to the island have been leveled and more will be bulldozed to make way for facilities.

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Marianas, which supports local activities of the U.S. military, clarified for The Guam Daily Post language included in two programmatic agreement memos issued for public comment, which said historic properties identified in areas affected by construction "will no longer be extant" once mitigation work was completed.

"Significant discoveries" that were identified through another, ongoing construction project in the area were data recovered, along with site information documented, according to the command. The development is taking place in a site the military calls North Finegayan, but the location has also been called Machanao pre-World War II, according to the memos.

"Recovered associated artifacts and any other resources that could be curated were collected and are properly stored pending turnover to the government of Guam upon the completion of the future cultural repository," said JoAnna Delfin, public affairs officer for NAVFAC Marianas.



SITE WORK: Work continues to pave way for facilities within Marine Corps Camp Blaz which will host nearly 5,000 Marines who will be relocated from Okinawa. This was seen along Route 3 in Dededo on Sunday. David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

“Although traces of the site are removed, the information and location are documented in technical reports for future studies about the area and its environment, which contributes to the knowledge of Guam's history and the CHamoru people.”

– JoAnna Delfin, public affairs officer, NAVFAC Marianas

Several residents, community organizations and lawmakers have advocated for any historic or cultural discoveries found during military construction projects to be preserved in place or for any artifacts or other archaeological findings not to be further disturbed. NAVFAC also confirmed the historic sites previously identified have already been developed.

"All recoverable features are no

longer in place as the site has been graded to bedrock," Delfin said.

NAVFAC Marianas said once a discovery is made, its location is documented with "sub-meter accuracy." Collection efforts can include hand excavation, screening soil, and collecting soil and carbon samples. This type of mitigation work leaves a historic property with its "integrity diminished" and characteristics "altered," according to the memos.

But not everything discovered was collected before it was subsequently leveled.

"While curation is an important part of the process, not every piece of an artifact was collected if it was determined that a sample can provide the same type of information," Delfin said. "Although traces of the site are removed, the information and location are documented in technical reports for future studies about the area and its environment, which contributes to the knowledge of Guam's history and the CHamoru people."

The public can comment on the memos until July 22. Both documents are available online, or residents can obtain a printed copy at the Department of Parks and Recreation office in Agaña Heights. Community comments can be emailed to criwebcomment@navy.mil.

SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan
36th Guam Legislature



**Committee on Health,
Land, Justice and Culture**

Notice of Public Hearings • Wednesday, June 23, 2021, beginning at 9AM

- 9:00 am-** Virtual Confirmation Hearings to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Commission (CICC)
- Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, to serve as a member
 - Denise Mendiola, to serve as a member
- 10:30 am-**
- Dr. Lisa Flores, to serve as a member
- 2:00 pm-** Oversight Hearing with the Chamorro Land Trust Commission regarding the following items:
- Implementation of Public Law 35-112 and swift confirmation of CLTC applicants via genealogy and title research
 - Inventory of CLTC properties in need of land registration and utilities connections.

Please email senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com or call 472-3586 to if you would like to provide live testimony on the Appointments to the CICC, no later than **5:00 PM ON TUESDAY, June 22, 2021**, and/or require any special accommodations. Written testimony can also be submitted via email to senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com. The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117/60.4/112-4 for Docomo customers without set top boxes and will also stream online via Liheslaturan Guåhan's YouTube Channel.



SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

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

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL HEARING • FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021

9:30 P.M.

General Services Agency Annual Report in compliance with 5GCA §5248, Relative to all contracts made under §5214 Sole Source Procurement and §5215 Emergency Procurement for Calendar Year 2020 (January to December).

VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING • FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 2021

1:30 P.M.

Executive Appointment of Attorney Minakshi V. Hemlani to serve as a Member of the Guam Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors.

Executive Appointment of Ms. Alice P. Sebastian-Cruz to serve as a Member (Classified Employee, Real Estate Licensing Division, DRT - Representative) of the Guam Real Estate Commission.

Executive Appointment of Attorney Steven Carrara to serve as a Member of the Guam Environmental Protection Agency Board of Directors.

Bill No. 149-36 (COR) - Sabina Flores Perez - AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK AS TRANSMITTED BY THE GUAM ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

4:00 P.M.

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dano', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

Those interested in participating, please confirm your attendance by contacting the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez via email at office@senatorperez.org or via phone at 989-2968, no later than June 16, 2021, for further guidance. Testimonies should be addressed to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Chairperson, and will be accepted via hand delivery to our office, our mailbox at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910, or via email to office@senatorperez.org, no later than 4pm June 22, 2021. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring special accommodations or services should contact the Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez at 989-2968.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 112-4, 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!



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

**AGENDA
VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING
Friday, June 18, 2021
*Zoom Video Conference***

The agenda is as follows:

4:00 p.m.

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing
Friday, June 18, 2021, 4:00pm
Zoom Video Conference

Resolution No. 94-36 (COR) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Chelsa Muna-Brecht	Guam Department of Agriculture	✓		✓		
Diane Vice	Guam Department of Agriculture	✓		✓		
Suzanne Medina	Guam Department of Agriculture	✓		✓		
Jay Gutierrez	Guam Department of Agriculture	✓		✓		
Celestino Aguon		✓		✓		
Haldre Rodgers	Ecology of Bird Loss Project	✓		✓		



**THE HONORABLE
SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing
Friday, June 18, 2021, 4:00pm
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Resolution No. 94-36 (COR) - Sabina Flores Perez, Clynton E. Ridgell - Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

NAME (please print)	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	ORAL TESTIMONY	WRITTEN TESTIMONY	IN FAVOR	NOT IN FAVOR	CONTACT INFORMATION
Joni Kerr	Guam Community College Ecowarriors	✓	✓	✓		
Olympia Terral		✓		✓		
Christiana-Jo Quinata		✓	✓	✓		
Jasmine Lin	Public Policy Institute	✓				

Testimony Submitted in Support of Resolution 94-36 (LS)

Joni Quenga Kerr

Guam Community College Ecowarriors

18 June 2021

I submit this testimony on behalf of the Guam Community College Ecowarriors in support of Resolution 94-36. I am an Associate Professor at GCC and one of the coordinators of the recent Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference and Workshop (MTCC), held June 8-10 and 15-17, 2021. I am also the treasurer of the nonprofit, Tãno', Tãsi, Yan Todu. The resolution already provides a very comprehensive history of the events that lead up to this environmental emergency on Islan Dãno (Cocos Island), so I offer reflections, comments, and information provided by participants of the MTCC.

In 2010, when 16 ko'ko' birds were first released on Dãno, many people crossed their fingers that these beautiful charismatic birds would be prolific and increase in number. Indeed, the success of the release was internationally-recognized in a December 2019 article in The Guardian. The article stated that the Guam Rail, "...is only the second bird in history to recover from being extinct in the wild, after the California Condor." Yet, in the very next month, January 2020, two local scientists, Dr. Alexander Kerr and Dr. Curt Fiedler, discovered a Brown Treesnake skin shed on the island. They reported their finding to the Department of Agriculture and the USGS Rapid Response Team. In September 2020, three local fishers, Tatiana Talavera, Robert Quintanilla, and John Aguon, captured two snakes on the island. Shortly thereafter, the Rapid Response Team began capturing snakes on the island while conducting visual surveys. Clearly, the success of the ko'ko' population on Dãno is compromised, as well as the success of the Sãli and endangered skinks, and we need to act quickly to reverse what many of us are fearing is very nearly a tragedy.

The presence of snakes on the island set off alarm bells and immense frustration amongst a group of local environmentalists, including myself, who have been trying for the past several months to get some movement in terms of organizing and training volunteer teams to go to Dãno to start eradicating the snakes. We all knew that what happened on Guam could very well happen on Dãno, and in a much shorter time. 1.5 years after the snake shed was discovered and with information provided by speakers during the MTCC, we have found that there are issues with a multi-agency response to such an emergency, including the lack of an incident command protocol. Now that such deficiencies are recognized, it is time to move forward and correct them, and direct a committed, sustained effort to get the snakes out of Dãno. According to several speakers at the MTCC, this effort is going to involve the community as a whole. Further, on the ground, visual surveys are going to be the best method to capture snakes, not snake traps with live mice or dead mice, and not mice pups laced with acetaminophen. The agencies lack the numbers, so community volunteers will be necessary. Funding is needed to pay for transportation to the island, equipment to provide to the volunteers (including lights, headlamps, snake sticks, etc). Also, we learned that careful removal of invasive vegetation would also make it easier to spot snakes at night. Community training of boaters to examine their vessels to prevent snakes from getting to the island will also be needed. According to one speaker, it could take years to completely remove BTS from Dãno. Once that is accomplished, we will need to continue with vigilant monitoring and biosecurity measures. As you can see, the success of eradication will require a

multi-pronged, concerted effort amongst local and federal agencies, and the local community. I think that one of the best outcomes of the MTCC is that we now understand that when something like this happens, we have to act decisively and quickly, and we need to have a proper protocol and funding in place to get things moving. Please note that these realizations will help other islands in the region to avoid what happened on Dãno.

As the international community learns about this emergency, we hope that we will be up to the task to reverse this tragedy so that Guam can truly proclaim that we have a success story.

I would like to thank Senadora Sabina Perez and Senator Clynt Ridgell for sponsoring this resolution and I call on the senators of the 36th Guam Legislature to support this most worthy and important resolution.

Si Yu'os Mă'ase,

Joni Quenga Kerr

Reference

Harvey, Fiona, *Flightless Bird Provides Spark of Hope Amid Environmental Crisis*
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/10/previously-extinct-guam-rail-saved-in-rare-conservation-success-aoe>



Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>

Written Testimonial in Support of Resolution 94-36

2 messages

Christiana-Jo Quinata <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
To: office@senatorperez.org

Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 2:59 PM

Buenas yan Hafa adai Senator Perez,

Guahu si Christiana Quinata. Taotao Santa Rita yu'.

As a CHamoru, our "natural heritage" is our heritage, it just happens to be living. We should be protecting our native species just as we are so fervently protecting our latte villages. We should be protecting our birds as they are the living artifacts from our ancestors. If we do not protect our native species from the brown treesnake on the only part of Guahan where there is a vibrant native bird and skink population then we are saying goodbye to all that our ancestors tried to pass down to us. Sure, it was not the CHamoru people's fault that the Brown treesnake got here in the first place but it is our responsibility to take care of our heritage both living in the form of the native plants and animals just as we do our latte.

I was born and raised on the island of Guahan. It was not until I became a biologist that I really started to learn about the native plants. However, that is somewhat a false statement. I have always learned about the land through going out with my parents or the stories my family would tell us or the brown "tea" that my dad made by boiling the leaves of the Ludagao plant along with other leaves to prevent disease. He is 71 in great shape and drinks it religiously. One time when I was little I made the mistake of thinking it was Nestea but it wasn't, it was brown like iced tea but it was bitter and not sweet at all. It was Dad's mystery tea. Now, as an adult and a CHamoru biologist, I learned that the Ludagao leaves that he boils is a native plant found along the beach strand and limestone forests, also known as *Clerodendron inerme*. The way this plant is dispersed throughout the island was probably once dispersed by the birds that are know longer around on Guahan. So as we continue to destroy through development of our native forests and we go for another 10-20 years without our native birds dispersing the seeds of vital medicinal plant seeds of Ludagao and countless others, so to will our cultural practices of using what the land provided and what our ancestors taught us. This plant may eventually die out because the forests are being destroyed and are not being regenerated because there are no native birds on Guahan to disperse the seeds thanks to the brown treesnake, and then what? Will I be able to find Ludagao in the jungles later down the road when I really need that medicine? Will I be able to carry on the tradition of making that Ludagao tea for my health just as my dad does?

If you really care about our culture, then vote yes for this resolution. These are the first steps you , yes you can do to try and create a path forward to eradicate snakes off of Cocos which has many birds if we are to even think we have a chance of reintroducing birds on Guahan. If we want to preserve our heritage in every way for our future, then vote for this resolution and do your part to protect our living heritage from the Brown treesnake. Prutehi yan difendi y tano.

If it is not too late I would like to be at the Zoom hearing to read this testimony virtually.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,
Si Christiana

Office of Senator Sabina Perez <office@senatorperez.org>
To: Christiana-Jo Quinata <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Cc: Charlene Flores <charlene@senatorperez.org>

Fri, Jun 18, 2021 at 3:01 PM

Buenas Christiana,

The Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez is in receipt of your written testimony and request to provide oral testimony in this afternoon's public hearing. The Zoom Link will be sent in a separate email. We greatly appreciate your time and input.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase,
Evan San Nicolas
Office Manager

[Quoted text hidden]

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Office of Senator Sabina Flores Perez

Committee on the Environment, Revenue & Taxation, Labor, Procurement, and Statistics, Research, and Planning
I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan

6/18/2021

Office of Senator Sabina Perez Mail - Written Testimonial in Support of Resolution 94-36

36th Guam Legislature

O: 194 Hernan Cortez Avenue, First Floor, Terlaje Professional Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

M: Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

T: (671) 989-2968

E: office@senatorperez.org

www.senatorperez.org

Our names are Else Demeulenaere and Grazyna Badowska and we support Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) relative to supporting the Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island to removing brown tree snakes from Guahan.

Every week we swim from Malesso's shoreline halfway towards Dãno' and back. Lately we have been greeted by Fãhang (brown noddy) and once in a while we see CHunge' (white tern). They even fly above us as we swim towards Dãno'. We see these birds because Dãno' has been a safe haven away from brown tree snakes. Now these sea birds breed on Malesso's shorelines as well, thanks to Dãno'. DAWR's Ko'Ko bird recovery program on Dãno' has been successful. After the first Ko'Ko release in 2010 the population has increased. Dãno' has served the same 'safe haven' purpose for the Ko'Ko, but unlike the sea birds, this bird cannot fly. The Ko'Ko bird population, Sãli birds and the many sea birds are now at risk because of the brown tree snakes that have been found at Dãno'. We applaud all the agencies efforts to eradicate the snakes and are excited for the community efforts. But we need additional support to safeguard the current bird populations present at Dãno' because these birds are the hope for Guam's forests and Guam's coastal habitats as they are a crucial part of our island ecosystem. We hope on day our children will be able to see a Ko'Ko in the wild on Guam again. Therefore, we support this resolution.



THE HONORABLE SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ

I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan • 36th Guam Legislature

AUTHOR'S REPORT DIGEST

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) was introduced on May 21, 2021, by Senators Sabina Flores Perez and Clynton E. Ridgell and was subsequently referred by the Committee on Rules to Senator Sabina Flores Perez, Author, on May 24, 2021.

The Author convened a virtual public hearing on Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) on Friday, June 18, 2021, at 4:00 PM via Zoom Video Conference Platform.

Public Notice Requirements

Virtual Public Hearing notices were disseminated via email to all Senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on June 11, 2021, and again on June 16, 2021, fulfilling the 5-Day Notice and 48 Hour Notice of the Open Government Law requirements respectively.

Senators Present

Senator Sabina Flores Perez

Senator Telo T. Taitague

Senator Joanne M. Brown

Author

Legislative Member

Legislative Member

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The public hearing was Called-to-Order at 4:03 p.m.

Author Senator Perez: Good afternoon. As the author of Resolution No. 94-36(LS), I'm calling this virtual public hearing to order. Resolution 94-36 (LS), introduced by myself, Senator Sabina Flores Perez, and Senator Clynton E Ridgell. It's relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', or Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's Native species and to commit to removing the brown tree snakes from Guåhan.

The rules of this virtual hearing are that the host would mute all participants until called upon to speak. When called to speak, please ensure that you're unmuted and that you recognize who you are, acknowledge who you are. Members of the committee wishing to speak may indicate the desire to do so in the in-app chat feature. The order of questioning will begin with myself, followed by Senators. Individuals testifying shall be first recognized and they shall state their name for record-keeping purposes, and questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance and nature of the agenda.

To begin, our agenda is to hear testimony regarding Resolution 94-36, sponsored by myself, and Senator Clynton Ridgell. If I can just give some brief opening statements. Today we will hear the testimony for Resolution 94-36. For more than 70 years, the brown tree snake has devastated Guåhan's natural environment, has directly and indirectly affected our community, our way of life and our culture. Dãno', until recently, has been brown tree snake-free and has been a habitat for recovery of our *ko'ko'* bird, and a sanctuary for a number of listed species, including geckos and skinks which are rare in the Marianas, and some of which are no longer found in Guåhan, due to the brown tree snake predation. Resolution 94 calls for multilateral support of local and federal efforts to eradicate the brown tree snake from Dãno'. The Government of Guam Department of Agriculture, and Department of Parks and Rec are responsible for managing the natural resources of Dãno' Park on Cocos Island. The Department of Ag is an active member of the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group, which coordinates the brown tree snake research and control activities to prevent the spread of snakes and restore Guåhan's native ecosystem. This will be a challenge, which will require multi-year federal funding resources and community involvement, but it is possible and this Resolution recognizes that Dãno' has the potential to become an example at our local, regional, and international levels of successful endemic and Native species recovery and conservation efforts.

Secondly, the Resolution supports the enhancement of local agencies' capacity to handle biosecurity threats, and this is informed by the belief in sovereignty and the need to center to moral agency in the restoration of our ecology. We are calling on our local and federal agencies to strengthen existing partnerships and joint efforts, and to expand community participation towards brown tree snake eradication monitoring, and implementing consistent biosecurity measures to keep Dãno' brown tree snake-free by strengthening our community's ability to tackle brown tree snakes so we can begin to create more habitats for conservation and protection of endangered and threatened species on Guam. The brown tree snake has caused devastating ecological impacts, especially to our Native bird populations on Guam. And now, with its introduction to Dãno', there is a threat to replicating these devastating effects to the resident Native vertebrate population. There have been reports of an alarming 80% decline in the *såli* population, and this sudden decline is a call to action to avert the threat to the population of many Native species that are found in this sanctuary. All life forms are interconnected, and we see the impacts of brown tree snake predation on native and endemic species, and how they have resulted in the severe decline in Guåhan's biodiversity, making our island more prone to climate change impacts such as storm surge activities, which directly impact Dãno' and other low-lying areas.

Resolution 94 recognizes the need for habitat recovery plans to include climate change contingencies and natural disaster mitigation. We often talk about *inafa'maolek* as a framework for creating and maintaining harmony and balance in our lives, in our communities, in our environment. It is a way of relating to ourselves and to the world around us. This Resolution seeks to embody and put into practice *inafa'maolek* by making brown tree snake eradication a legislative priority in order to ensure Dãno' can once again become a safe habitat for our native and endemic species. I look forward to hearing the testimony of our participants today, and from my colleagues. I'm very appreciative of everybody here, spending their late afternoon on a Friday, prior to the weekend, and I do acknowledge that a

lot of you are foundational and environmentalists, here. I would like to recognize Director Chelsa Muña-Brecht for her testimony in regards to Resolution 94-36. Good afternoon, Chelsa.

Chelsa Muña-Brecht, *Director, Guam Department of Agriculture*: Good morning. I'm sorry, good afternoon. It's been a very long week. Thank you so much, Senator Perez, and Senator Brown, and Senator Taitague. What I'd actually like to do though, is, because any testimony I provide would be based on just information I learned from our personnel, who work primarily on this project and have tremendous amount of passion and commitment, and have put in many, many, many countless hours and frustration and intensity into the work that they do on Dãno' Island. I'd actually like to ask, I know we have both Diane and Suzanne, as well as the DAWR Chief, Jay Gutierrez, online. I'd like to offer them the opportunity to provide comments, first, since this is their project, and specifically, Diane, who's been working on this. This has become, I think, one of the foremost issues that she's been working on for many, many, well, not just this year, and weeks but I think years, already.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Director Brecht. Yes, thank you, Diane, I think this was your, it started with a conversation we had a couple—maybe a month, couple months back, but I do appreciate your support. Yes, I would like to open the floor to you for your testimony.

Diane Vice, *Wildlife Supervisor, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture*: I'm Diane Vice, I'm the Wildlife Supervisor for the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, and I didn't know that I was going to give testimony. I thought we were doing written, so I didn't know that I was going to talk, but I will talk, because I'm, I do that. I've been working on the *Ko' ko' for Cocos* project out on Dãno' since 2004. It started with planning and we've put *ko' ko'* birds out there, and they're successfully spreading throughout the island, and there's a lot of other Native species out there that are all listed in the Resolution. I helped a lot with that, so everything, it's very inclusive. The Resolution has everything in it, and it just shows how important Cocos Island is. It's worth saving that *sãli* population that has withstood the brown tree snake invasion on Guam. That's our main concern, right now. Our office is currently writing proposals to have a continuous brown tree snake operational control, not only paid staff but also volunteers to go out, and this is all federal funding. Everything, pretty much everything for Cocos has been federal funding. We've had some local businesses chip in. It's a great project out there. The PDN donated ink for our rodent monitoring stations. We've had GVB, they've sponsored our celebratory release of the Guam Rails, the first one. Things that are difficult to fund under federal grants that we kind of really target trying to get some way to fund them. We've had a lot of partners. We've had a lot of federal money put into the project, already, and it's unfortunate that the snakes are out there. However, you know, even with that, we've learned a lot over the last 10 years, 15 years, about the *ko' ko'* bird and releasing. The rodent eradication was successful out there, and we've had an increase in detection of the Slevin's Skink, which is due to the rodent eradication, more than likely. They weren't found before the eradication.

We've created this, we've improved this oasis for Native species and now that the snake is there, and it's been a demonstration to the locals for what type of management is needed for

our Native species, in this world of invasive species. It's been demonstrating that it's demonstrated a ton of partnerships for funding and agencies, and private government partnerships, and now, going forward, and I just did a presentation on Haldre's conference on the, you know, this is Phase II where we can now demonstrate how we're going to eradicate snakes in an area, where there are Native birds and high prey or high prey items. This is going to be needed, if we're wanting to create islands of low predation rates for, or eradication areas, depending on the size, to bring back our Native birds, in particular, and other species. We're going to have to have islands protected from predation, and in order to control the brown tree snakes in those areas, we're going to need to know how exactly to get down to either the lowest numbers or the eradication, or just numbers, so that we can have birds reproducing in the wild. And there are a number of control techniques that can be used for that, and Cocos Island is going to demonstrate that.

Going forward, globally, it's a really, it's an important topic, because brown tree snakes are the, you know, poster child, Guam is a poster child for invasive species. We can be the poster child for, you know, how we've conquered the brown tree snakes. It's, and even with the federal government, they put a lot of money into protecting other islands from brown tree snake, and I think that they will be looking at this, and the research efforts that have gone into brown tree snake, so far, even though we have, you know, we've done maybe 30 years. And in order to eradicate rodents, it's taken hundreds of years of research, so you know, we're still in an infancy, so to speak, for eradication of snakes. It's a brand-new thing, but I think that we're posed to be successful, and it's not going to be cheap, and I think that it's important that this Resolution was important, because the feds want, federal agencies, they want to see that Guam wants their support, wants their technical assistance, that's something they need in order to put money forward. And they're also gonna wanna, they would love to see us put money forward, too, as well, because it's gonna be expensive. It's gonna be, we have to be in it for the long haul. So, right now, we're controlling snakes, we're planning this control project to do what we can, right now, and to save our *sāli* which is the real species in jeopardy out there, right now, but in the long term we're going to need an eradication plan, which we're just starting to work on. And when we get that eradication plan, there's going to be ample opportunity for the Government of Guam to put in some funding for that, and I think that would show everybody, show the world that Guam really respects their Native cultural heritage and our Native species. I thank you for working with us and putting forth this Resolution, and it's really the first step in in a journey, and I look forward to it. It's keeping me entertained these days, for sure. Thank you.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Diane, for that. We do appreciate your testimony and looking forward to working together on all fronts. Alright. Suzanne, I've known you, I think the first time I met you was in regard to the *ko'ko'* bird project and other bird recovery projects. So, I'd like to recognize you, as well, on this Resolution.

Suzanne Medina, Wildlife Biologist, Guam Department of Agriculture: Thanks for having me. I hope you can hear me. I, of course, 'ditto' everything that Diane was saying, and this Resolution is so important and it's something that we've just, in our office, we've just been holding our breath for, for quite some time. And we've had this this horrible trauma of the pandemic going on and at the same time we're having this horrible trauma of Cocos Island

going on, and so this is, it's perfect timing, especially since Guam is doing so well, in terms of COVID. I am optimistic, as Diane is, that we can conquer this problem. We actually, we're getting ready to release *sihek* this year. Unfortunately, because of the issue we're having to postpone that, we are still planning on moving forward with our first *sihek* releases, but it won't take place on Cocos Island, it won't even take place on Guam. First, we're going to be working on another island, which we will be talking about more in the upcoming months. We also had plans for Cocos Island for the *chichirika*. I know Diane and Tino, who's there as well, too, the CNMI was very welcoming in saying, 'let's do some translocations and bring the *chichirika* back, to bring it to Cocos Island and also, most recently, I think it was last year or the year prior, 2019 they were saying how, about the white eyes, bringing the *nosa'* to Dãno', as well, too. There's so much that can be done with Dãno' for our birds, and community involvement, as well, too. Even, you know, getting the resort up and running, as well, too, it's just very grateful that this is happening at this moment, right now. And it's just going to get better. It's going to be very exciting for us to see the *sãli* population rebound. Thank you so much, everyone, for supporting this, and

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Suzanne. I'm looking forward to hearing more about your projects. Thank you for your support. Alright. I think Jay, you were mentioned earlier, did you—would you like to provide any testimony, at this time?

Jay Gutierrez, Acting Chief, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, Guam Department of Agriculture: Hi, I just want to say that I would be pretty much reiterating everything that everyone had said, but we're in support of, well, we are support—the division support of the Resolution because it's, there's, a lot, not a lot of invasive species over in Cocos Island and it would serve as a good habitat for Natives, the flourishing of Native and flora species. It's also home to many Native species that that are no longer found in Guam and, such as the Slevin's Skink, the nesting sea turtles, and the nesting birds. It also[inaudible] how to learn to control, beat the recovery of Guam's Native species. It also served to help support the *sãli* and saving the *sãli* and giving hope to the people of Guam that Native birds would [inaudible] when they return to their backyards, and you know, I remember myself going to Cocos when I was young. I enjoyed the many features that are on Cocos Island. And I really hope that the Resolution is passed so we can see more of the Native species, not just on Cocos Island, but hopefully one day on Guam, where we can learn from what is being done in Cocos Island and kind of pattern it on Guam, so we can have this, those species here on Guam, as well.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Jay. That's a beautiful vision, something I also dream of, seeing *sihek* and the *chichirika*. Just amazing. I also want to recognize the honorary member of Department of Ag, Celestino Aguon, I know you're retired from Department of Ag. If you have a testimony you might like to provide, and if you can turn on your video.

Celestino F. Aguon: I do. Okay. Good afternoon, everyone. Okay. Good afternoon, Senators.

Author Senator Perez: Is there a way to turn on your video?

Mr. Aguon: You know, I'm just having computer issues. I apologize for that. Does that forfeit any activity for me?

Author Senator Perez: I'll go ahead and waive the rule.

Mr. Aguon: Thank you very much for that. We'll figure that one out. I should have figured in our previous meeting we were all on, all the videos regarding our self, we're basically forfeited. Anyway, here is my testimony, and I will be submitting just as, for the record, I will be submitting a written testimony, in that regard. But for now, this is what I will be submitting, verbally. I am submitting my testimony in support of Resolution 36-94, a Resolution supporting the conservation efforts on the island of Cocos Island, or Dãno'. I am a retiree, having served 30 years of government service under the Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. During my tenure with DAWR I progressed from a part-time biological technician in the late 70s and retiring as the Division Chief in August of 2020. We had saved the Guam Rail, also known as the *ko'ko'*, from extinction, and now efforts to re-release birds into the wild have begun. During my service, we had, among our accomplishments, promulgated Guam's Endangered Species List, submitted and obtained federal fund—grant funding for many of our local projects connected with Guam schools *via* class presentations and exhibits, and definitely provided, and definitely this what was a monumental accomplishment in the recent Marianas Terrestrial Conference. The key take-home message was communication with benefactors and partners, especially, more especially, the people of Guam, and this is paramount. Cocos Island remains to be the last vestige of Guam's wildlife in the wild. It is a jewel of heritage that must be protected. Passage of this Resolution accomplishes that. It is not the final effort. It communicates to the people of Guam that it is important to Guam's conservation efforts. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'* for your support.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you very much, Tino, and I think it's come around full circle for you. I think, I believe this is where you got your start in bird conservation, Native birds. I think that that was what your expertise is on, so thank you for participating today and providing your support in this matter. Director Chelsa, did, would you like to provide any additional comments from your team?

Director Muña-Brecht: Alright, thank you, Senator Perez. My name is Chelsa Muña-Brecht, Director of Guam Department of Agriculture. I can't, I mean, our experts have said everything that really is relevant and pertinent to be said about the Resolution, with regards to all our wildlife and the species that will be saved, and I just wanted to comment that I appreciate, and I think our, I know our agency appreciates the attention that you're helping to bring to all of this, because everyone who does all of this work and gives their heart to it at the agency, they typically do it under, just like, in the background. Nobody sees the work, and that Suzanne wakes up every morning and is at the agency 6:00am trying to help make sure the birds are fed, or that Diane's got weekly meetings with the BTS, what are the—oh my gosh, it just, give me—the response team, the Rapid Response Team. So with this Resolution, you help draw attention to all of that work, and that creates support in our community. And we have community members who are aware of the situation and want to provide help, but there are so many others out there that don't know that there are all of these opportunities on Dãno', for our Native species, and that it's protected. Right now, just by its location with water between us, and that, and the island from the invasive species. And a really important aspect of this Resolution is that it provides the support that our federal partners will need to help get

more funding from their respective lead agencies for the project here. So, I think that's a really important component of the Resolution, that it will provide for us. So, thank you for that.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Director, for your words of support, as well. We're looking forward to working with you, closely. At this time, I'd like to recognize Dr. Haldre Rogers to provide testimony on the Resolution.

Dr. Haldre Rogers, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University: Thank you, Senator Perez, and good afternoon, Senators. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. This is my first time speaking at a hearing like this. I am here to support Resolution 94-30 (LS). As Senator Perez said, I am Dr. Haldre Rogers and I'm an Assistant Professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University. I was the first USGS Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response Team coordinator from 2002 to 2005. I started the program that responds to snake sightings on other islands, to identify new populations of snakes, and we never were successful when I was at the helm, and this is the first time that any Rapid Response has been successful, in terms of actually finding a population of snakes. It's not really the kind of success that you want to have, but it is an important step. So, since 2005 I've been doing research on the impacts of bird loss on the forests of Guam, showing that the loss of birds has impacted seed dispersal and affected the Native Forest regeneration, and it's also linked to an increase in spiders. And more recently, my group has started to work on projects that focus on restoring birds and Native forests on Guam. Several people have mentioned the Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference. This is a conference that a non-profit organization on which I'm a Board Member, *Tåno', Tåsi, yan Todo*, organizes. And we just finished the conference yesterday, and Wednesday, we had a large discussion about the situation on Dåno', so the Resolution is important and urgent, and I think because the situation on Dåno' is a crisis, from the perspective of the birds and skinks. Also, Dåno' provides our island community with an opportunity to eradicate snakes for the first time, anywhere in the world, which sets the stage for an eventual, more complicated eradication of snakes from areas on Guåhan. A failure on Dåno', however, bodes poorly for future eradication efforts on Guam. I think we have two roads, two paths to take: either one that ends in success for birds, skinks, and eradication, or one that ends in failure, that's much like what happened on Guam a long time ago. And this is a very important and timely point for this Resolution.

Five key points: one, the need for response is urgent. Many people here have already spoken about how important Dåno' is for the *ko'ko'*. The *ko'ko'* is only the second bird in history in the world to recover after being declared extinct in the wild, and received a lot of global attention in 2019. They're on the news, kind of all around the world, for this, and that was because of this population on Dåno'. There were plans to reintroduce the *sihek* to Dåno', which would bring another one of our extinct and the wild species back. Another really important step, but that's not going to happen until snakes are controlled. And others have talked about the *såli*, and the Slevin's Skink. Dåno' is also an important breeding ground, a place to see seabirds. There are likely somewhere between 200 and 500 snakes on Dåno', and so far, maybe 50 to 60 snakes have been removed, somewhere in that range, and they likely arrived there sometime between 2011 and 2014. So it's been some period of time that they've been there and been increasing. This is why it's urgent. We know what happened on Guam, when snakes

got there. Bird numbers declined very quickly as soon as the snakes reached a region, and that's the same thing is likely to happen on Dãno'. So, point two: eradication. Getting every last snake off Dãno' will be challenging, but I think it's possible, and controlling the snakes long enough to maintain existing bird populations is certainly possible, if we act quickly. So far, we've learned that trapping with dead bait and using toxicants within dead bait are not effective tools in an environment that has lots of other prey around, other birds to eat. The most effective tool is visual searching, just getting people on the ground, looking for snakes, and that's time consuming, but I think it's possible. You just get out there and look for them. It gets more difficult, getting every last one. And luckily, we have a great team of researchers that can work on trying to figure out how you get those last few really difficult snakes. Number three, there needs to be a way of rapidly accessing funding for this project, as well as for other invasive species that arrive. An ideal response starts as soon as the population is discovered and the group puts forth an intense and concentrated effort to make a big event, as big of an impact as possible. This requires funding that can be mobilized in a different time scale than federal agencies typically operate, and potentially provides an important role for local funding that could be mobilized more rapidly. Currently there, the USGS Rapid Response Team has led a limited emergency response, where trained searchers have searched one to two times a week since November, and a longer-term response might happen in a couple months from now. With more searchers contracted by DAWR, in addition, there are plans for volunteer efforts down the road, but still at this point the only response has been a couple days a week, one to two days a week, by USGS Rapid Response searchers, and that needs to change. We need to get people out there immediately. We have a volunteer effort, possibility, that could—led by Olympia Terral, on here. It's ready to go, but there is no funding right now, to pay for boat trips and fuel, and none of the current sources of funds can be mobilized immediately. It just will take some time to get them up and running. The snakes, though, are not waiting for next fiscal year to eat the birds or skinks. And so, we need to mobilize a more intense response immediately, and I'm hoping that there may be some.

This Resolution could identify some sources of funding or help people try to find some sources of funding that could get us going rapidly. And then, a point, I think Tino made very nicely, and Rlene Steffy, in our conference this week, also made, is that Dãno' is a community problem. It's not a federal problem, it's the community's island, the community's resources, and the community's problem, and that includes the federal partners but also includes all the people of Malesso', the people of Guåhan, and the local government. In the past, brown tree snake research and control has largely been left to the federal government for funding, and much of the research and control efforts have been on the federal government, and there's been little role for involvement of the community, even though every year at our conference people ask us how they can help with the brown tree snake problem. By training citizens to help with snake eradication on Dãno', we'd be investing in Guam's ability to control snake populations on GovGuam land, on private land, down the road, and allow everyone in Guam to have a part in the restoration of the island's birds. It's also potentially an important opportunity for economic recovery for citizens of Malesso' and other southern villages, if there is room for employment as part of the Dãno' snake control team. And then, last point is just that, once eradication is successfully completed the biosecurity and monitoring is going to be necessary for long-term success. And the more you get people involved in this, the more likely that biosecurity is going to be effective. The snakes in Dãno' were discovered by private

citizens who killed them. They made the right call, they killed the snakes, and they called Department of Agriculture or talked with someone. They talked with Department of Ag, and by engaging the public, we're ensuring there are eyes and ears on the ground. So, in closing, the discovery of snakes in Dãno' is tragic, but we still have the opportunity for the story of Dãno' to be one of success, if we can protect the remaining birds and lizards, conduct the first successful snake eradication in the world, and then use it as a model for future projects on the island of Guam. The alternative is a repeat of the story that played out on Guam with the original invasion of snakes as Zach Quiogue said in his talk at the conference this week, there is still hope. Leadership from the Government of Guam and their federal partners, as well as community involvement, will be critical for saving birds and skinks in Dãno', and for bringing Native birds back to Guåhan. The support of this Resolution is an important first step. Thank you for introducing this, Senator Perez and Senator Ridgell.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you, Dr. Haldre. Yes, I would like to also acknowledge that Senator Ridgell regrets not being able to be here due to family concerns, but he does lend his full support. At this time, I'd like to recognize Joni Kerr for her testimony.

Jonita Kerr, Associate Professor, Guam Community College: Thank you, Senator Perez. I'm Joni Quenga Kerr, and I am an Associate Professor at Guam Community College and advisor for the GCC EcoWARRIORS. I am also a Coordinator of the Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference and Workshop that Dr. Haldre just talked about, and I am also the Treasurer for the new non-profit called *Tãno', Tãsi, yan Todo*. The Resolution already provides a very comprehensive history of the events that led up to this environmental emergency on Dãno', so I'm going to offer some reflections, comments, and information provided by participants of the MTCC. When, in 2010 when 16 *ko'ko'* birds were first released on Dãno', many people crossed their fingers that these beautiful, charismatic birds would be prolific, they're going to have babies, increase in number, and indeed, the success of the release was internationally recognized in a December 29 article in *The Guardian*. The article stated that the Guam Rail is only the second bird in history to recover from being extinct in the wild, after the California Condor. Yet, in the very next month two local scientists, Dr. Alexander Kerr and Dr. Kurt Fiedler discovered a brown tree snake skin shed on the island. They reported their finding to the proper agencies, and then in December 20 and September 2020 three local fishers, Tatiana Talavera, Robert Indalecio, and John Aguon captured two snakes in the island. Shortly thereafter, the Rapid Response Team began capturing snakes on the island, while conducting visual surveys. Clearly, the success of the *ko'ko'* population on Dãno' is compromised, as well as the success of the *sãli* population, and endangered skinks. We need to act quickly to reverse what many of us are fearing is very nearly a tragedy. The presence of the snakes on the island set off alarm bells and immense frustration amongst a group of local environmentalists, including myself, who've been trying for the past several months to get some movement in terms of organizing and training volunteer teams to go to Dãno' to start eradicating the snakes.

We all knew that what happened on Guam could very well happen on Dãno', and in a much shorter time, given the small size of the island. One and a half years after the snake shed was discovered, and with information provided by speakers during the recent conference, we've found that there are issues with a multi-agency response to such an emergency, including the

lack of an Incident Command Protocol. So now that such deficiencies are recognized, it's just time to move forward and to correct these, and direct a committed, sustained effort to get the snakes out of Dãno'. According to several speakers at the MTCC, this effort is going to involve the community as a whole, as Dr. Haldre just said. Further, on-the-ground visual surveys are going to be the best method to capture the snake. Not snake traps with live or dead mice, and not mice pups laced with acetaminophen. The agencies that are responsible for normally attacking this problem, they lack the numbers, the employees, so it's going to require community volunteers. Funding is going to be needed to pay for transportation to the island, gasoline, and so on, and equipment to the volunteers, including lights, headlamps, snake sticks, and the training, and by the way, the training is very interesting, and it's not that difficult. It's, we had, I think, maybe 20 people out one night, and we all learned how to catch a snake. Anyway, all we learned, that we also learned, that careful removal of invasive vegetation is going to make it easier to spot snakes at night. These invasive vines that are kind of making things difficult to see, and for movement in certain areas. If we maybe have some volunteers during the day to take care of that thick vegetation, then it'll make it easier to catch snakes.

We're also going to need community training of boaters, to show them how to examine their vessels to prevent snakes from going to the island. According to one speaker, it could take years to completely remove BTS from Dãno', but once that is accomplished, we will need to continue with vigilant monitoring and biosecurity measures. As you can see, the success of eradication will require a multi-pronged, concerted effort amongst our local and federal agencies, and the local community. I think that one of the best outcomes of the MTCC is that we now understand that, when something like this happens, we have to act decisively and quickly, and we need to have a proper protocol and funding in place to get things moving. Please note that these realizations will help other islands in the region to avoid what happened on Dãno', as the international community learns about this emergency. We hope that we will be up to the task to reverse this tragedy so that Guam can truly proclaim that we have a success story. I would like to end by thanking Senator Sabina Perez and Senator Clynt Ridgell for sponsoring this Resolution, and I call on the other Senators of the 36th Guam Legislature to support this most worthy and important Resolution. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*.

Author Senator Perez: *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Joni for your testimony. Thank you for your participation today. We'll have questions later, but we'd like to recognize others that have come here today, to provide testimony. We have Olympia Terral. Would you like to present your testimony?

Olympia Terral, Research Associate, University of Guam: Yes, good afternoon, Senator. Thank you so much for highlighting this important cause, this important—we need to succeed here. We cannot fail, because if we fail with this, that means, what does Saipan have to look forward to, if they ever get a snake on their island? If we can't eradicate the snake from that small island, if we don't have the means in place to make that happen, to jump quickly in order to prevent the horrific slaughter of birds by snakes, what is going to happen in Rota or Saipan or the other islands where planes from Guam fly to, daily, where boats go back and forth? And what I think is really beautiful about the Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference, so, I went to the second one, that was the first one I attended, and I came away

thinking it might be possible. It might be possible to eradicate snakes on Guam. Just hearing that excited me so much that I was basically stalking Haldre to like, find out, how can I be a part of this and what can we do to make that happen, because I love birds, I love seeing birds in the wild, I love being, having them being a part of my life and me being a part of theirs by being able to observe them, and I think it's so important that they be given a chance to reproduce in the wild. I think it's so important that Dãno' be a place where people can go and observe bird life. We're all, not all of us, but many of us, are dying to see birds. Young people here on Guam don't even know what it's like to have birds in their life so I think we cannot fail with Dãno' because that failure will ripple out. People will think, "Oh, we can't control the brown tree snake, so why should we bother? Look on that tiny, tiny island of Dãno' they can't even get rid of it." We cannot fail, and one way that we can make sure it happens is by having the community involved, as Joni Kerr said, there's just not enough people at Department of Ag to go out there and do searches every night for snakes.

We need the community effort to be mobilized and be empowered to go out there. We need funding for boats to go back and forth, ferrying people out there, so that the snake issue can be resolved. I believe it can, but I think it's going to be a lot of hard work and it's going to be a lot of people on the ground getting training learning how to spot snakes and I would like to see this come ripple out to the village of Malesso', where people often, most people leave from Malesso' to get to Dãno', and have the village of Malesso' looking for snakes all over their village. Already, they're seeing birds that they haven't had there, that are roosting and nesting—the Black Noddys are nesting there, and I think Dãno' could be a treasure for birders, for people to go and experience what it's like to feel birds in the wild, because on Guam we've been deprived of this, because the brown tree snake has taken them from us. And the efforts that, the money that has come into Guam has been directed toward protecting other islands, which they should, I'm not saying that's not a good way to work, but we need to do something about the snakes on Guam. Dãno' will be a wake-up call that it's possible, but we need support, we need volunteers, and we need the community involved, and I'm very, very grateful to you, Senator Perez, for highlighting this issue and also to Haldre, and Joni, and Ann Marie Gawel, for putting on the Marianas Terrestrial Conference every year and making it free, because that allows people to understand what research is happening, and anyone can attend. Thank you all, and please let us work together, all the agencies, the community, local and federal agencies, working together to have success with getting rid of the brown tree snake on Dãno' and hopefully Guam, as well, and giving people in Saipan, in Rota, in Tinian, in the FSM, in Palau, giving them a road map of what to do if the snake arrived there. Thank you, very much.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you so much, Olympia for your passion and your commitment to this project. We're definitely gonna have to build upon that, to make this a reality. Thank you. So, at this time, I'd like to recognize Christiana-Jo Quinata for her testimony.

Christiana-Jo Quinata, Graduate Assistant, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology: Thank you all, for holding this hearing for Resolution 94-36 and I'll now give my testimony in support of this Resolution. *Guåhu si* Christiana Quinata, *taotao* Santa Rita *yu*. As a CHamoru, our natural heritage *is* our heritage—it just happens to be living. We should be protecting our Native species just as we are so fervently protecting our *latte* villages. We should be protecting our birds, as they are the living artifacts from our ancestors.

If we do not protect our Native species from the brown tree snakes on the only part of Guåhan where there is a vibrant Native bird and skink population, then we are saying goodbye to all that our ancestors tried to pass down to us. Sure, it was not the CHamoru people's fault that brought the brown tree snake to the island in the first place, but it is our responsibility to take care of our heritage, both living in the form of the Native plants and animals, just as we do our *latte*. I was born and raised on the island of Guåhan, it was not until I became a biologist that I really started to learn about the Native plants. However, that is somewhat of a false statement. I've also learned about the land through going out with my parents or the stories my family would tell us or the brown tea that my dad made by boiling the leaves of the *lodigao* plant, along with other leaves, to prevent disease. He's 71 in great shape and drinks the tea regularly. One time when I was little, I made the mistake of thinking it was *Nestea*, but it wasn't. It was a brown-like liquid that looked like iced tea, but it was bitter and not sweet, at all. It was my dad's mystery tea. Now as an adult and a CHamoru biologist, I learned that the *lodigao* leaves that he boils is a Native plant found along the beach strand and limestone forest, also known as *Clerodendrum inerme*. The way this plant is dispersed throughout the island was probably once dispersed by the birds that are no longer on Guåhan, so as we continue to destroy through development of our Native forests and we go for another 10-20 years without Native birds dispersing the seeds of a vital medicinal plant, seeds of *lodigao* and countless others, so, too, will our cultural practices of using what the land provided and what our ancestors taught us. This plant may eventually die out because the forests are being destroyed and not being regenerated, because there are no Native birds on Guåhan to disperse these seeds, thanks to the brown tree snakes, and then what? Will I be able to find *lodigao* in the jungles, later down the road, when I need that medicine? Will I be able to carry on the tradition of making that *lodigao* tea for my health, just as my dad does? If you really care about our culture, then vote 'yes' for this Resolution, or in support of this Resolution. These are the first steps you, yes you, can do to try and create a path forward to eradicate snakes off of Cocos, which is many birds, if we are even to think that, think we have a chance of reintroducing birds on Guåhan. If we want to preserve our heritage in every way for our future, then vote for this Resolution and do your part to protect our living heritage from the brown tree snake. *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*.

Author Senator Perez: *Si Yu'os ma'åse'*, Christiana. Very well-said and thank you so much for those words. It's very important to connect natural resource conservation with the historic preservation. Thank you for that testimony. And now I'd like to recognize Jasmine Lin for her testimony on the Resolution.

Jasmine Lin, *student, Harvest Christian Academy: Håfa adai* and good afternoon. My name is Jasmine Lin, I'm a senior at Harvest Christian Academy and also an intern at the Public Policy Institute under Vice Speaker Tina. I would like to start off by saying thank you for allowing me to testify in support of Resolution 94-36, which secures federal technical assistance and funding for Guam's Native species and to commit to removing brown tree snakes. With Resolution 94-36 I believe that it will help fight the decline of Guam's biodiversity, along with preserving the wildlife sanctuary that is home to many endangered species. Not only will this restore our island's ecosystem, but also help ensure that brown tree snakes will not be spread to other locations with vulnerable populations. This is an opportunity to conserve Native species and begin on the journey to recovering Guam's

endemic species by introducing them back to Cocos Island. This initiative will not only benefit future scientific research, but also the local economies. With this Resolution, we are taking another step towards restoring and protecting our island's Native species. The effort will require funding, time, and manpower but the direction we are heading towards will allow future generations to see and study not only the species that we already have now, but hopefully also the ones that will be reintroduced. Thank you, Madam Chair and Senators for your time.

Author Senator Perez: *Si Yu'os ma'āse'*, Jasmine. It's always empowering to hear the youth present such strong support for protecting our environment. So, thank you for your time. And so now, I'd like to maybe have a couple questions for the panel that are here today. So a lot of mention was about how do we get funding. We have the federal funds that would take a little longer. It looks like there is a delay or a lag phase before the federal funds can come, but I know we do have resources here that we can utilize. There's definitely a lot of passion and intent to do something. I think there's a couple of things: so the resource, the funding that we need, and if someone may perhaps talk about what type of funding is needed, as well as the administrative steps. So, the first step is to cover this gap while we're waiting for the federal partners to kind of kick in. So, if maybe Director Chelsa, you can maybe speak to, or your staff, can speak to what are the first steps that are needed and how can the community work together with the Department to address the brown tree snake population.

Director Muña-Brecht: Well, it's kind of funny, thank you for the question, Senator, because Olympia and I were messaging each other on the side, talking just about that. I completely hear Joni and Haldre, and Olympia, and their want and need, and the urgency of wanting to have a sort of community-based volunteer team come on to the island. So I was messaging Olympia, saying we need to have a meeting about this, because we need to have a planning discussion. But I've also had these conversations with our team, and understand that part of the other aspect, to the concern and other concerns, revolve around the Endangered Species that are already there, because, and I don't know that this needs to be an entire conversation we have right now, during this public hearing, but in having a community-based Rapid Response Team, as they mentioned, you need funding for the boats. We already have many boat owners or private boat owners, but the pier belongs to Cocos Island, that's number one, although they could come on the government side, and there's no dock for that. But I'm sure we could figure out a solution to get on that way. Then, I think we need to quantify or put a value to the amount of equipment that would be needed. I don't think snake grabbers are necessarily expensive, unless we have people who just, you know, hardcore want to use their hands, but you, I think you've also touched on this sort of Invasive Species Rapid Response procurement before. I feel like, in the prior last term, we had, we've had this conversation and then the first funding opportunity that people—that come to people's mind is the Invasive Species Fund, but then as we also mentioned during our budget hearing, that fund is supposed to be accruing over \$2M annually, and consistently, historically, it hasn't exceeded \$700,000. I mean, it's always just been around \$600,000 which just covers the staff of our Biosecurity Division. So until we rectify that, there's never really gonna be available funding for a Rapid Response, unless it comes from another source.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you for that. I think, so, if anybody's interested in in helping out, they would contact Department of Ag, is that correct, if they want to donate a boat or money?

Director Muña-Brecht: Well, they couldn't donate the money to us, or the boat, but I know Olympia has put together a team of volunteers. I guess Joni was part of that, where they got trained together by USGS. Diane wrote a proposal for US Fish and Wildlife to also put together a sort-of volunteer group, but as Joni mentioned, that's like, waiting for the next funding cycle before that receives the funding, to support a volunteer group. And then there's the other training that I think is really important for any volunteers, and that's how to even move along the island, so that you're not damaging, or, let's consider it 'take' for any other Endangered Species that are already there. Yes, so, and I also, jump in or chime in if you want, or Jay, Suzanne, and Olympia has a question.

Ms. Vice: I don't know if you want to recognize Olympia first, so then I can speak.

Author Senator Perez: Olympia, if you have any questions.

Ms. Terral: Yes, I just wanted to say that, basically, what we need is a fund that would have money that we could utilize for boat captains to take us out, boats and the captain to take us out, to Dãno'. We also need equipment, but for me that's not the most important, although I bought, I just recently bought a light that's relatively very bright, but the lights that they use at USGS are like, \$500 each. I think the light I bought cost about \$75 that you can get from *Amazon*, and then there are snake sticks that would be helpful, but not necessarily needed, because we can use our hands, we will use our hands, but they do help because the snakes are very often in the trees, above the trees. I also have ideas for novel traps for snakes, because I've had snakes in my house over the years, a lot, and I also kept birds for a while, so I have methods and I spoke with Patrick who's with USDA now, and he was interested in talking more about it, using netting to trap for the snakes, to cut, catch themselves in, so there's a lot of things that can happen, but the most important thing is if we can get from the community or the Government of Guam or the Federal Government, but I guess, you know, giving funds to just a private citizen so she can pay boats to take people to Dãno', I think that's a little more difficult but if we could have a non-profit that, perhaps the money could be funneled through, might be useful, and might be a way, because I'm committed to going out there, and so are the other volunteers that I've spoken with, and I think the volunteer effort could grow much more, once we start getting more vocal and we have a way to go about getting out there. I'm also expecting a letter from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, giving me technical support about how to avoid the Endangered Species that are there. I should have that letter next week and I've also, I've also applied to be an agent of the state with, through Diane and Jay at the Department of Agriculture, for myself and the other volunteers whose CVs I have. So, we are moving ahead, but really, I think the important thing is having transportation to get out to the island. Thank you.

Author Senator Perez: Great, thank you, Olympia. So, I would like to open the floor to my colleagues for any questions. Senator Brown.

Senator Brown: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and certainly thank you to everyone who's hung in there this afternoon, to provide testimony. I don't have a lot of questions. I think the presentation is pretty up front, I mean, I think it's quite a concern we'd always hope that we would have this, what we would refer to as Cocos Island, now called Dãno', or was called Dãno', you know, as a safe haven for our birds, and I've had the opportunity to go down there and see our Native birds out there, so it's very concerning certainly, the proliferation of the brown tree snake that, you know, we all seen the damage here on Guam, of what has happened to our Native bird population as a result of that. So I really don't have any questions. It's nice to see some old friends that I've had the opportunity not just to know, but also to work with, and you know that the passion is still there to want to protect our resources. So certainly, Madam Chair, you have my support on this Resolution, and thank you again, to everyone who's provided their testimony here, this afternoon. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Author Senator Perez: Alright, thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Taitague, if you have any comments or questions.

Senator Taitague: And thank you Madam Chair, and I, too, I want to thank everyone who's here today to testify, to hang in there, you know this is one of the reasons why I became a Senator. You know, it's about protecting the environment and definitely our Endangered Species that we have, that we identify, as a culture who we are, this is who we identify with. So just as much as we protect our people, we need to protect the wildlife that's here, as well. So I really appreciate it, and I love the story about Jay. Jay, when you talked about when you were younger going to Dãno', or Cocos Island, that we used to call it, all the time. I did the same, I used to go with my friends quite a bit, I mean, I'm from the village of Inalåhan, and so it, and had many relatives in Malesso', so going to Cocos Island, my uncle drove the boat there, so we used to think that, you know, we were, we're big shots because we left the island, and we used to joke about it like, 'Oh, I left the island last weekend!' And we'd go to Cocos Island it was beautiful, you know, even before all the, they built on it, you know, for tourism and stuff we were able to be a part of, a sand dune that usually comes out at a certain time, when the tide goes out, you know, had another little island to the side of it that we used to, it was a sand dune, basically, so I mean, and now it just breaks my heart to hear what's happening now on Dãno' and I want to do everything I can to assist, I mean, to a point where maybe you know, Olympia, you've been an advocate on this island, and been here for a long time. Diane, as well, good to see you. Of course, Joni, I know you and Dr. Rogers, maybe a non-profit organization is needed right now, to be able to receive some types of donations because the Government of Guam cannot receive, you know, like Chelsa mentioned, we can't receive funding money or gifts or anything like that, but a non-profit organization to do this might be the route to go, in order to receive that, because I know there's going to be tons of people, especially from the south, who want to be a part of eradicating the brown tree snake. I have to tell you, I have a phobia, a total phobia of snakes, but you know, I'll do whatever it takes, you know, to help this out, and so, a non-profit organization would be the route to go and, you know, Chelsa, I really appreciate, the work you're doing on this and you're absolutely right, one thing that you said was that it can't just be anybody going there to do this study and the eradication, because of the danger of destroying other nestings, that's very, very important. Here, I'm saying to put a non-profit organization to react, you know, 'dandan', I

don't know what you're going to call it, but make sure it's people who know what they're doing and I wish I could have been to the public hearing for your budget hearing. Unfortunately, I had a family issue at home, an obligation that I had to take care of that day, but I did take the time to listen to the public hearing and listen to what she had to say. I just wish I was there to be able to put some money in that area, with regards to the eradication of the brown tree snake at Dãno'. If there's anything else I can do, please let me know. Madam Chair, I thank you very much and ask that I'd be a co-sponsor on this Resolution, and I would also, I will advocate to my other colleagues who are not here, today, the importance of this Resolution, and hopefully Chelsa, a bill will come down the line for some funding in your area, and I really appreciate all the work that everybody is doing here. Thank you so much, and thank you, Madam Chair.

Author Senator Perez: Thank you, Senator Taitague. We did receive a message that there is a Conservation Fund. I believe that's through Department of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources. Is that correct, Diane? But the purchasing has to be through Department of Administration. Is that correct?

Ms. Vice: Yes.

Author Senator Perez: Do you know how much money is in that fund?

Ms. Vice: Well, that's [inaudible] It's a Fund that have don—that can accept donations.

Author Senator Perez: Oh, I see.

Mr. Gutierrez: Okay, so that's a—

Director Muña-Brecht: It's a Wildlife Conservation Fund.

Mr. Gutierrez: Yeah. We have taken donations from other from entities before, for the Wildlife Conservation Fund, such as sea turtles from local business owners.

Author Senator Perez: Okay. Alright, so that's a potential way that the community can support this effort. That's good to know. In addition to Senator Taitague

Ms. Vice: I'm sorry, it would be better to have it through a non-profit, I don't know how, I don't know if you, I don't know how the funding from the Legislature, if it was to go from the Legislature, if they can specify a non-profit and that money could go there. There's lots of non-profits that could accept the money on behalf of Olympia's effort, so I'm just suggesting that there is a way that you can donate to the Government of Guam. However, if the purchasing is too, it's difficult and it's slow,

Director Muña-Brecht: There would need to be the Statutory Rapid Response that we discussed, Senator Perez, and I think if, I mean, if money had to go through the agency to get to a nonprofit, then we could do some awardees or sub-grants, kind of like how GVB does, perhaps. But I think that would also have to be specified statutorily, as well. It might just be

easier to have, I don't know, maybe it would be to go through GVB and have a community or NGO apply for the sub-grant.

Author Senator Perez: Okay.

Ms. Vice: I think that's gonna take time. I'm looking for money and, I've applied for money for the volunteer program, so there is some money coming, but what Olympia needs, she needs cash. She needs to pass the hat, basically. She needs cash to pay those drivers and the other difficult part, like, she needs cash now, because even the grant that I'm working on, modifying to give, to give her some money, you know, through the procurement it's difficult to, you know, if she doesn't have cash in her hand, how does she pay someone? And we can pay her for training and arranging and coordination, and she can use that payment for those skills for gas. But again, it's taking time, so she needs, she needs cash, now.

Author Senator Perez: There was a mention of the *Tāno' Tāsi, Todo*, do you guys accept funds is that a potential option can you accept donations?

Ms. Rogers: We are working with *Mango*, which is a, as a fiscal sponsor that would be able to accept donations. They're out of the CNMI until we have our own ability to accept funds.

Author Senator Perez: Okay so that that's a potential—

Ms. Rogers: Yeah.

Ms. Vice: There's also MCC—Micronesian Conservation Challenge, sorry, Micronesian Conservation Coalition. They're based out of Guam, might be easier to have a Guam-based one. They would be willing to accept the money, as well. But like I say, they need cash, it just needs a flow-through. I don't know how you get cash though. From a government, cash from a government doesn't happen very quickly, so I don't know...

Author Senator Perez: Okay. so that's good to know and look definitely looking forward to the plans, because it has to be coordinated with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In regard to the funding, if Cocos Island, Dāno', was a big success story, I can imagine that we could potentially have an online funding campaign. I can imagine, it can receive a lot of international attention and support, monetarily. I think that whichever nonprofit does this, I would highly recommend that they reach out to the international community to help provide funding. We'll put together something for sure, but again, I want to thank everybody for your participation in this public hearing.

Chairperson Perez adjourned the public hearing for Resolution No. 94-36 (LS) at 5:14 p.m.

Written Testimonies:

- Joni Quenga Kerr, *Guam Community College Ecowarriors*
- Christiana-Jo Quinata
- Else Demeulenaere and Grazyna Badowska

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Senator Perez hereby reports out Resolution No. 94-36 (COR), with the recommendation: **To Do Adopt.**

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2021 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 94-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez 
Clynton E. Ridgell 

Relative to supporting Government of Guam agency efforts to secure federal technical assistance and funding to eradicate snakes from Dãno', also known as Cocos Island, to protect and recover Guåhan's native species, and to commit to removing brown treesnakes from Guåhan.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, the species of snake identified as *Boiga irregularis* or brown treesnake (“BTS”), known locally as *kulepbla*, is invasive to Guam; having been established following the end of World War II as a stowaway in cargo transported by US military vessels, and having been a major factor in a modern extinction episode beyond its native range and unprecedented in its scope, with the extirpation of most of Guam's endemic and native terrestrial vertebrates, including fruit bats, lizards, and thirteen of the island's 22 native breeding birds, with the most significant impact on native forest birds, of which ten of 12 have become locally extinct; and

WHEREAS, after more than 70 years since initial discovery of the BTS in Guam, the BTS continues to pose a major threat not only to the island, but to surrounding islands and atolls in the region; and

WHEREAS, the absence of natural population controls, an abundance of vulnerable prey on island, and a climate that allows the BTS to reproduce year-round

1 has caused the BTS to have devastating ecological impacts, and, at present, pose a
2 significant threat to the wildlife of Dãno', also known as Cocos Island; and

3 **WHEREAS**, BTS predation on native and endemic species has resulted in a
4 severe decline in Guam's biodiversity, making our island more prone to climate change
5 impacts, such as storm surge activities which directly impact Dãno' and other low-lying
6 areas of Guam; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Dãno' is an 83-acre atoll located 1.5 miles off southern Guam
8 within the Merizo Barrier Reef, and is part of the Malesso' village municipality; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Dãno' is a culturally and historically significant place to the
10 Malesso' community, which relies on the health of the Cocos Lagoon and other natural
11 habitats for subsistence; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Dãno' had remained relatively snake-free seventy years after
13 Guam was invaded by the BTS, and is free from cats, rodents, feral pigs, and deer,
14 allowing for native fauna to flourish and provide habitat for endemic and native species,
15 and is home to the only free-living population of the endemic *ko'ko'* (Guam Rail,
16 *Gallirallus owstoni*) in the Territory of Guam; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Dãno' is considered by the residents of Guåhan and the scientific
18 community to be an incredible sanctuary for wildlife that nest and reproduce there,
19 including shorebirds, seabirds such as *chunge'* (White Tern, *Gygis alba*), *fahang* (Black
20 Noddy, *Anous minutus*; and Brown Noddy, *Anous stolidus*) which are protected under
21 the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the locally-endangered *sãli* (Micronesian Starling;
22 *Aplonis opaca guami*) the endangered *haggan betde* (Green Sea Turtle, *Chelonia*
23 *mydas*), and on occasion, the endangered *fanihi* (Mariana Fruit Bat, *Pteropus*
24 *marianus*), and notably, Dãno' is the site chosen to reintroduce the locally-extinct *sihek*
25 (Guam Kingfisher, *Todiramphus cinnamominus*); and

26 **WHEREAS**, Dãno', Cocos Island, is one of the only safe refuge areas for geckos
27 and skinks which are rare in the Marianas and no longer found on Guåhan due to
28 predation by the BTS, including the endangered Mariana Skink (*Emoia slevini*), Tide-

1 pool Skink (*Emoia atrocostata*), Azure-tail Skink (*Emoia cyanura*), Micronesia Saw-
2 tailed Gecko (*Perochirus ateles*), Oceanic Gecko (*Gehyra oceanica*), and the Snake-
3 eyed Skink (*Cryptoblepharis poecilocephalus*); and

4 **WHEREAS**, prospects for successful recovery are dependent on eradicating the
5 BTS at various spatial scales and the presence of BTS could negatively impact all
6 wildlife that call Dāno' home, as both active (e.g., geckos) and inactive (e.g., eggs) prey
7 are eaten opportunistically, including almost all vertebrates and carrion of a suitable
8 size; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Government of Guam Department of Agriculture (“DoAg”) and the
10 Department of Parks & Recreation (“DPR”) are responsible for managing the
11 natural resources of Dāno' Park on Cocos Island, and DoAg is an active member of the
12 BTS Technical Working Group, which coordinates BTS research and control activities
13 to prevent the spread of the snake and restore Guåhan’s native ecosystem; and

14 **WHEREAS**, a 2021 DoAg survey in Dāno' of the population of *såli*, which is
15 one of the two remaining native forest birds in Guåhan, revealed an alarming 80%
16 decline in population from an estimated 200 individuals to 40 individuals; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in January of 2020 the discovery of a BTS skin, shed on Dāno',
18 Cocos Island, was reported to DoAg and the United States Geological Survey (“USGS”) BTS
19 Rapid Response Team (“RRT”), and in September 2020 local fishermen found and
20 killed several BTS; and, further, in October 2020 a population of BTS was documented
21 by the USGS RRT; and

22 **WHEREAS**, with the assistance of local and federal partners, an immediate
23 response to remove snakes was initiated to protect the native wildlife in Dāno', and if it
24 were not for the careful attention and reporting of local residents, this population of
25 snakes would remain unknown and its expansion left unchecked; and

26 **WHEREAS**, while long-term planning for eradication efforts is ongoing, it is
27 acknowledged that removing snakes from Dāno', Cocos Island, will be challenging and
28 that the effort will require multi-year federal funding resources and community

1 involvement which incorporates well-trained volunteers, and that members of the BTS
2 Technical Working Group recognize that eradication of snakes on Cocos Island is
3 possible and can demonstrate how BTS control efforts may be integrated to protect
4 native species from extinction; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in response to the invasive threat that the BTS poses to Guam, the
6 United States Congress established the *Brown Tree Snake Control Committee* and
7 included section 1209 of the *Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control*
8 *Act of 1990*, and furthermore, a multi-agency Brown Tree Snake Control Memorandum
9 of Agreement authorized a cooperative program to control the BTS outside of its
10 historic range and to develop an integrated pest management approach that would
11 eradicate or contain new populations as soon as detected, was signed in 1992 and
12 renewed in 1999 and 2011; and

13 **WHEREAS**, under the reporting requirement standards established by the 108th
14 US Congress and outlined in the *Brown Tree Snake Control and Eradication Act of*
15 *2004* (Public Law 108-384), the *Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group* was
16 subsequently created and tasked with ensuring that federal, state, territorial, and local
17 agency efforts concerning the BTS are coordinated, effective, complementary, and cost-
18 effective, to include preventing escape of the BTS from Guam to other locations,
19 suppressing and controlling BTS numbers to reduce their impact on Guåhan and
20 restoring the island's ecosystem, and eradicating the BTS from Guam; and

21 **WHEREAS**, the last major directives regarding the *Brown Tree Snake Technical*
22 *Working Group* were initiated in 2004 with the *Brown Tree Snake Control and*
23 *Eradication Act* (Public Law 108-384) and in 2009 with the *Duncan Hunter National*
24 *Defense Authorization Act* for FY-2009 (Public Law 110-417 [Division A], Title III,
25 Section 316, October 14, 2008, 122 Statute 4356), which required the Secretary of
26 Defense to establish a comprehensive program to control and eradicate the BTS
27 population from military facilities in Guam and to ensure that military activities do not
28 contribute to the spread of BTS; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Dãno', Cocos Island, is an invaluable educational and research
2 destination for students and scientists to observe and study wildlife that is either scarce
3 or non-existent on Guåhan, and is an important tourism destination for the village of
4 Malesso' which sustains local business economies, provides jobs, and is part of the
5 cultural heritage of southern Guam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the training and capacity building of Government of Guam
7 personnel and community partners to identify and respond to BTS is a long-term
8 investment into Guam's ability to combat the spread of BTS; and

9 **WHEREAS**, plans for species and habitat recovery on Dãno' should also include
10 climate change contingency plans to mitigate impacts of natural disasters; and

11 **WHEREAS**, although current efforts have ensured BTS are actively being
12 removed from Cocos Island and the snake population is being assessed to protect against
13 extant native species, and it is a mission moving forward, that we continue to work
14 towards the restoration of our own environment and continue in the direction of
15 reclaiming the connection to our lands; now, therefore be it

16 **RESOLVED**, the eradication of snakes from Dãno', Coco's Island, is an
17 environmental emergency that requires decisive, well-coordinated, and immediate
18 action, with sincere and equitable partnership between federal and Guam agencies to
19 avoid the tragic loss of endemic and native species, many of which are both locally and
20 federally listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act; and be it further

21 **RESOLVED**, such actions must include the direct and meaningful involvement
22 of the Malesso' community, the Guam DoAg, and the free, prior and informed consent
23 of the people of Guam to be effective and culturally responsible; and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, subsequent to eradication of the BTS from Dãno', what must
25 follow is consistent and thorough biosecurity, monitoring, analysis, prompt public
26 reporting of native and endemic species counts, and active preservation work, to ensure
27 that these species do not disappear from Dãno' as they did from Guåhan; and be it
28 further

1 **RESOLVED**, as the Guam DoAg is the lead agency in the effort to eradicate
2 BTS, new and significant federal findings regarding BTS and other invasive species
3 should be shared openly with the agency and the people of Guam; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, Dãno', Cocos Island, does hold great potential to become a local,
5 regional, and international example of successful endemic and native species recovery
6 and conservation efforts, which would elevate and showcase the stewardship of the
7 people of Guåhan; and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that the successful and rapid eradication of snakes from Dãno',
9 Cocos Island, will provide a demonstration of how BTS control and eradication efforts
10 can be integrated to protect endemic, native, and endangered species, and how such
11 efforts could lead to eliminating BTS from Guåhan, further expanding the possibilities
12 of one day reintroducing the island's native birds back to the land and recovering the
13 island's cultural heritage; and be it further

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes the
15 impact a singular invasive species can have on an environment and the ecosystem that
16 sustains it, and further implores the larger community, both governmental and non-
17 governmental, to mutually commit and work together to protect Guam's native
18 endangered and threatened species from the catastrophic harm of the BTS, develop
19 more effective and environmentally sound control and eradication strategies and
20 methods that will protect endangered species and other wildlife from BTS predation;
21 and be it further

22 **RESOLVED**, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Sais Na*
23 *Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, support the
24 eradication of snakes from Dãno', Cocos Island, including compliance by all persons
25 accessing Dãno' with the Biosecurity Protocols necessary to keep Cocos Island safe
26 from further intrusions by snakes, rodents, cats, chickens, or any other organism that
27 provide any risk to Guam's native species; and be it further

1 **RESOLVED**, the eradication of BTS from Dãno', Cocos Island, be determined
2 as a priority legislative action and additional funding initiatives through grants,
3 contracts, reimbursable agreements, or other mechanisms locally and federally, be used
4 to explore resources for the continued support of existing programs and the
5 development of new programs surrounding the detection, control, monitoring, and
6 eradication and interdiction of invasive species in Guam; and be it further

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
8 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
9 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of Insular and International
10 Affairs, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United States Geological
11 Survey, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Guam Department of Agriculture,
12 the Guam Invasive Species Council, the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group;
13 and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF I
MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY
OF MONTH YYYY.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary