

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
441-37 (LS)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Jesse A. Lujan Christopher M. Dueñas Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Joe S. San Agustin	RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.	7/1/24 1:55 p.m.			7/2/24	Author	8/2/24 5:30 p.m.	8/21/24 2:30 p.m.	



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

August 21, 2024

The Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

163 Chalan Santo Papa

Hagåtña, Guam 96910

VIA: The Honorable Chris Barnett *DRB*

Chairperson, Committee on Rules

RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)

Buenas yan Håfa adai Speaker Terlaje,

Transmitted herewith is the Author's Report on Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) – "RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS."

Sincerely,

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Author



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Received:

August 21, 2024 11:22 a.m.

Beatrice Cruz



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guahan

37th Guam Legislature

AUTHOR'S REPORT

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)

**Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A.
Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D.
San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin**

**“RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT
OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED
STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A
CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR
CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.”**



COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

July 2, 2024

To: **Joaquin P. Taitague**
Clerk of the Legislature

Attorney Darleen Hiton
Legislative Legal Counsel

From: **Senator Chris Barnett** 
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Subject: **Referral of Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)**

Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!

As per authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §§ 7.03(e), and, 7.04(b) Rule VII of our Standing Rules, and 2 GCA § 2103(b), I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)** – Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Jesse A. Lujan, Christopher M. Dueñas, Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas, Joe S. San Agustin. – “RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Please ensure that the subject Resolution is referred to Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author of the Resolution. I also request that the same be forwarded to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the resolution is available on our legislative website <https://guamlegislature.com/index/37th-guam-legislature-resolutions/>.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin J.A. Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.



FIRST NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

2 messages

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jul 26, 2024 at 12:00 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

July 26, 2024

MEMORANDUM**TO:** All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**FROM:** Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author

Senator Jesse Lujan, Author

SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Buenas yan Håfa Adai! Please be advised Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes and Senator Jesse Lujan will be hearing resolutions pertaining to cabotage exemption. The hearing will be held on **Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Vice Speaker Muña Barnes, as main sponsor, will hear the following resolution:

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)

Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin

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Senator Jesse Lujan, as main sponsor, will hear the following resolution:

Resolution No. 447-37 (COR)

Sponsor(s) - Jesse A. Lujan / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joanne M. Brown / Therese M. Terlaje / Joe S. San Agustin / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Sabina Flores Perez / Telo T. Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher





Relative to requesting the United States Secretary of Transportation to authorize a temporary twenty-four (24) consecutive month exemption to expand cargo and passenger flexibility at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam and allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

For individuals wishing to provide testimony, please contact our office by email at senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org or call 671-989-8762.

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Vice Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at 671-989-8762 or via email at senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*'s live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

4 attachments

-  **Res. No. 441-37 (LS).pdf**
1227K
-  **Res. No. 447-37 (COR).pdf**
1322K
-  **AGENDA - August 2.pdf**
172K
-  **FIRST Notice - August 2.pdf**
378K

Ed Pocaigue <sgtarms@guamlegislature.org>
To: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Fri, Jul 26, 2024 at 12:09 PM

Hafa adai
Noted and posted on calendar
[Quoted text hidden]

--



Si Yu'os Ma'åse'

Edward S. Pocaigue, Jr.
Sergeant at Arms

37th Guam Legislature
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

Tel: (671) 969-3514
Email: sgtarms@guamlegislature.org

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Office of the Vice Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

July 26, 2024

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TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders
FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author 
Senator Jesse Lujan, Author 
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FIRST NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

 PRINT

**FIRST NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING –
Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 07/26/2024 12:00 AM

 **Posted by:** Alan Cepeda

 **Public Hearing Date:** 08/02/2024 05:30 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR TINA MUNA BARNES (/notices?division_id=274)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

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July 26, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders
FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author
Senator Jesse Lujan, Author
SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday,
August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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([http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th Guam Legislature/COR Res 37th/Res.%20No.%20441-37%20\(LS\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th%20Guam%20Legislature/COR%20Res%2037th/Res.%20No.%20441-37%20(LS).pdf))

Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin
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([http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th Guam Legislature/COR Res 37th/Res.%20No.%20447-37%20\(COR\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th%20Guam%20Legislature/COR%20Res%2037th/Res.%20No.%20447-37%20(COR).pdf))

Sponsor(s) - Jesse A. Lujan / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joanne M. Brown / Therese M. Terlaje / Joe S. San Agustin / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Sabina Flores Perez / Telo T. Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher
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TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37TH Guam Legislature

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For individuals wishing to provide testimony, please contact our office by email at senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org or call (671) 988-8762. Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at Suite 411-134 West Soledad Avenue Hagåtña, GU 96910 or via email to senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org.

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SECOND NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>

Wed, Jul 31, 2024 at 12:00 PM

To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

July 31, 2024

MEMORANDUM**TO:** All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**FROM:** Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author

Senator Jesse Lujan, Author

SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM

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4 attachments



SECOND Notice - August 2.pdf
379K



AGENDA - August 2.pdf
172K



Res. No. 447-37 (COR).pdf
1322K



Res. No. 441-37 (LS).pdf
1227K



Office of the Vice Speaker



TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

July 31, 2024

MEMORANDUM

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Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 PM**

PUBLIC HEARING



 **Posted on:** 07/31/2024 12:00 AM

 **Posted by:** Alan Cepeda

 **Public Hearing Date:** 08/02/2024 05:30 PM

 **Department(s):**
GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department_id=92)

 **Division(s):**
OFFICE OF SENATOR TINA MUNA BARNES (/notices?division_id=274)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

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July 31, 2024

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Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin
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Sponsor(s) - Jesse A. Lujan / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joanne M. Brown / Therese M. Terlaje / Joe S. San Agustin / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Sabina Flores Perez / Telo T. Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher
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I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37TH Guam Legislature

SECOND NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC HEARING – Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

Buenas yan Háfa Adai! Please be advised Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes and Senator Jesse Lujan will be hearing resolutions pertaining to cabotage exemption. The hearing will be held on Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building. The agenda is as follows:

Vice Speaker Muña Barnes, as main sponsor, will hear the following resolution:

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin

RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Senator Jesse Lujan, as main sponsor, will hear the following resolution:

Resolution No. 447-37 (COR) Sponsor(s) - Jesse A. Lujan / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joanne M. Brown / Therese M. Terlaje / Joe S. San Agustin / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Sabina Flores Perez / Telo T. Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher

Relative to requesting the United States Secretary of Transportation to authorize a temporary twenty-four (24) consecutive month exemption to expand cargo and passenger flexibility at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam and allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

For individuals wishing to provide testimony, please contact our office by email at senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org or call (671) 988-8762. Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at Suite 411-134 West Soledad Avenue Hagåtña, GU 96910 or via email to senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Vice Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at (671) 988-8762 or via email at senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org.

The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and online via. I Liheslaturan Guåhan's live feed at http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm. A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on Youtube after the hearing. Si Yu'us Ma'åse'l



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

AGENDA

Public Hearing Room

Guam Congress Building

Friday, August 2, 2024 at 5:30pm

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THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO
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Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher

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passenger flexibility at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam and
allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam in the course of transportation of
passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place
outside the United States, and for other purposes.



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet

Friday, August 2, 2024 • 5:30 PM • Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)

Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin
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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	TESTIMONY		CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
		Oral	Written		
① Judy Havrilla		✓			
Tim Havrilla					
Hideo Cwano	JAL				
Junghyun, Ryn	Koreanairlines		✗		
Nari Taimanglo	"			"	"
Healim Kang	"			"	"
Kang Hyunwook	Tway air				
① Lauren Cabrera	GAIN - support X				
③ John Guimta	GIAA	✓	-		
Ricky Hernandez	GIAA		-		



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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	TESTIMONY		CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
		Oral	Written		
Alison Hadley	GAIN	X	✓		
Brenda Smith	GAIN		X		
Tim Clark					
Kim Jun, Wore	Jesun		X		
Scott Kelly					
DOREENE KANDY	GOODWIND TRAVEL GENERAL SALES AGENT FOR PHILIPPINE AIRLINES				
Kim Eun Jung	JEJU AIR				
Paul Kim	JINAIR				
JONCTBOK LEE	JINAIR		✓		
RENE LAD	GOODWIND DEVT CORP.				



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	TESTIMONY		CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
		Oral	Written		
Nancy Kulan	China Airlines				
Meagan Cummings	NA				



Office of the Vice Speaker
TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES
I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan
37th Guam Legislature

Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet
Friday, August 2, 2024 • 5:30 PM • Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room

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NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	TESTIMONY		CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
		Oral	Written		
Arleen DECASTRO	GAIV.				



Email: official@guamairport.net

**Testimony on
Resolution No. 441-37(LS)
Resolution No 447-37 (COR)**

by
**John M Quinata
Executive Manager**

Hafa Adai and Good Evening Chairman Shelton, Vice-Speaker Tina Muña Barnes, Vice Chairman Senator Lujan, and members of the Air Transportation Committee

As Executive Manager of the A. B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam (GIAA), I express my support for the intent of Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) and Resolution No. 447-37 (COR), both of which are measures to attract air service to and through Guam which may increase competition and potentially reduce airfare for passengers. Both resolutions aim for a more competitive environment for air service in the Marianas and Micronesian region and, in turn, not only can provide an opportunity to have a positive financial impact at GIAA but can also improve and add to the recovery of our tourism economy.

The relationship between airports and airlines is reciprocal—its symbiotic—as we need each other to operate and prosper. The airport derives its revenue from two sources. The first source—aeronautical revenue—which includes rates and charges paid by airlines and other aeronautical users which are heavily regulated and has little flexibility or low elasticity in the cost structure for airside services. The second revenue source—non-aeronautical revenue—which includes property leases, concession agreements, commercial services, vehicle parking, office rental, and other sources, bring in a significant portion of total airport revenues. These two major sources of revenue help to operate our airport 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and simply put, the more air service and resulting passengers that fly to and from the Guam International Airport, the more revenue can be derived, and can further allow the Airport to continue to invest in capital improvements, passenger experience enhancements, and bring the cost to operate down for air carriers.

As we are all aware, Guam's only commercial airport has and continues to face unprecedented impacts not only due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but now with the impacts of a more moderate recovery horizon due to external factors such as the devaluing of currency in our source markets. Now being only about 60% recovered from pre-pandemic traffic, the GIAA has experienced lost revenues of over \$150 million since FY 2020. And it has continued to operate through cost

containment, especially during the worst years during the COVID-19 pandemic, creative debt refinancing and restructuring, which allowed us to utilize and stretch out the use of up to \$60 million in federal operating funds, of which \$17 million was from American Rescue Plan Act funds directed by Governor Leon Guerrero.

With the addition of the continued impacts of Typhoon Mawar and the capital improvements and repairs needed to return to normalcy, Resolution Nos. 441-37 and 447-37, although may not have immediate effects on the GIAA's current financial position, may provide near future positive impacts that can change the pace of our recovery trajectory by increasing flights and passenger traffic to the airport.

Prior to the pandemic, we had 12 operating airlines to 17 destinations with frequencies up to 52 flights daily, provided by 10 foreign carriers and 1 US carrier and 1 commuter airline. Today, we have 8 operating airlines to 12 destinations and an average daily frequency of 31 flights daily provided by 7 foreign carriers and 1 US carrier. The stark difference is palpable – our regional residents have less options of carrier choice, less frequency for connectivity, and are subjected to monopolistic air fare pricing amid a restrictive federal regulatory environment for foreign carriers.

Resolution Nos. 441-37 and 447-37 gives all of us hope for a future that can involve more airlines and more flights to and from Guam with the optimism that such competition can reduce airfares and increase our people's ability to connect with loved ones, but also to connect our visitors to Guam. For these reasons, I express our support for the intent that these resolutions aim to achieve.

Testimony in Support of Cabotage Exemption (H.R. 8786)

Håfa Adai,

My name is Lauren Cabrera, and I am the President of Guam Animals in Need, cofounder of Boonie Flight Project, and the founder and President of Saipan Humane Society. I reside on Saipan, and am deeply invested in the welfare of animals and the people who love them in our region.

I am here today to express my strong support for Resolution 441-37 and 447-37, which seeks to provide a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing on Guam or the CNMI. As our islands are uniquely positioned in relation to the U.S. mainland, we must also find unique solutions to the challenges we face. While it is reasonable that U.S. states be required to use U.S. airlines, this is not reasonable for a U.S. Territory in the Asia Pacific region.

Cabotage exemption has obvious benefits for our islands - opportunities for increased tourism and economic growth, greater connectivity between our islands and the mainland, and increased ease of medical referrals. But I am here today to talk about the animals.

United Airlines discontinued their pet shipping program in 2018, after a flight attendant forced a customer to put their French Bulldog in the overhead bin. When the dog died, United received significant negative media attention. This resulted in millions of dollars in lost revenue and the subsequent closing of their pet shipping program. Today, they allow only military service members to fly pets when relocating.

What does this mean for the rest of us? It means that our people who are not military service members being relocated must pay thousands of dollars per pet to fly them through chartered airlines. It means that 40% of surrendered pets at GAIN are due to families relocating. It means that people like me are putting to sleep beloved pets who are left on an island with an already overwhelming dog and cat population. It means rescues cannot transport pets off island for better lives, and they are put to sleep too.

I have attempted to engage with United Airlines for several years. Every time, I am met with excuses such as, "We cannot ship pets due to the pandemic". Well, the pandemic is over. Or, "We do not have the infrastructure in place to safely ship pets". Well, how do you ship military pets, then?

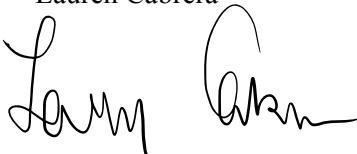
Despite an online petition with 25,000 signatures and years of attempting to work with United Airlines to reopen PetSafe for our region, nothing has changed. United Airlines does not care about our needs.

We cannot accept the United Airlines monopoly any longer. There are many foreign carriers willing to serve our people - and their pets. Let's allow them. I urge you to fully support these resolutions. It's time to remove the barriers that isolate our islands and ensure a brighter, more connected future for all of us.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cabrera

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lauren Cabrera', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Support for Resolutions 441-37(LS) and 447-37(COR)

Brenda S <[REDACTED]>

Sun, Aug 4, 2024 at 2:42 PM

To: senatorlujan@guamlegislature.org, senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org

Hafa Adai Senators,

My name is Brenda Smith. I am the veterinarian at SNIP at Guam Animals in Need.

I am writing in support of both Guam Resolutions 441-37(LS) and 447-37(COR).

From a professional aspect, Guam residents' inability to take their pets with them when they leave the island is a disaster. Unless they are on PCS orders, nobody can ship a pet on United Airlines. We have private jets arriving two or three times a year to take pets off and on Guam. The cost for each pet is in the thousands of dollars. Few can afford this. We adopt out animals and stress that it is a life-long commitment, but residents honestly can't afford this fee. The result is either more animals turned in to GAIN or more animals abandoned. Both results have a negative impact on GAIN and the staff, the pet owners, and our ability to help curb the overpopulation issues on the island. If we could ship animals to the mainland for a reasonable fee, all our temporary residents would be able to take pets with them. This would help us adopt out more animals as well as reduce in incoming shelter numbers. We could also send many more animals to shelters and adopters on the mainland, providing more homes and thus reducing our euthanasia numbers. This would be a huge relief to the owners and would reduce the burden and emotional toll that euthanasia of healthy, adoptable animals takes on our staff.

Another ongoing issue with the clinic is our difficulty is obtaining medications. All our refrigerated items including vaccines, antibiotics, and pain medications must be shipped from a warehouse in California on a Thursday so they can get to Hawaii to make the flight and arrive to us on Monday or Tuesday. More than 50% of the time, our boxes get stuck somewhere along the way and by the time they arrive they are useless. Saipan Humane Society can't get chilled items delivered to them at all. We are ordering for them, storing the items if we receive them still cold, and reshipping to Saipan ourselves. If our cargo could come straight from California or elsewhere on the mainland, we would not have these ongoing problems.

From a personal perspective, both my husband and I have aging parents and family members. We have to choose a limited number of times that we can go to see them, and it is very hard to get to them in an emergency due to the outrageous flight prices. This is a huge issue for us, and we are a family of two professionals with no children. I am saddened at the number of families on Guam that don't have the ability to afford to visit their families living off island. Even the flight charges to Saipan are cost prohibitive.

In summary, it would be a huge benefit to the families and the animals on Guam for the cabotage exemption to be accepted and enacted.

Thanks so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Brenda K Smith DVM


Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5301

August 2, 2024

Honorable Tina Rose Muna Barnes
Chair, Committee on Federal, Foreign & Regional Affairs, Innovation &
Development, Human Resources & Public Libraries
Bank of Hawaii Building
Suite 411 134 West Soledad Avenue
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Re: Testimony for Resolution 441-37

Dear Vice-Speaker Muna-Barnes:

I write to you today to express my support for Resolution 441-37, relative to expressing the endorsement of H.R. 8786, the *Pacific Island Flight Alternatives Act* (PIFAA). Our office introduced this bill in the 118th U.S. Congress in June with the intent of addressing the challenges with airfare costs for anyone traveling to and from Guam. It is also a monumental issue which will face an uphill battle, thus will require a collective effort from all elected officials in Guam, and for that I thank you for taking the initiative.

The cost of airfare is a multifaceted issue that we must address from every angle. It is clear to many who have traveled in and out of the island, or even searched for flights off-island, that most key routes to and from Guam are operated by a single carrier. As a result, local consumers and tourists are faced with high travel costs that are a result of heavy market concentration by one entity. The best economic solution to this is simple: more competition.

While we understand that there have been efforts to attract other domestic carriers to service the region, we recognize that none have expressed any serious interest in operating a route out of Guam, and for various reasons. Simultaneously, we have been informed that there are interests from carriers domesticated in countries

deemed as U.S. allies to pursue a flight from Guam to a U.S. port, which would certainly allow for the much-needed competition.

H.R. 8786, if enacted as drafted, would allow foreign carriers from Japan, South Korea, or the Philippines to board passengers and/or cargo from their home country, and then land in Guam or the CNMI, and then continue the route from either U.S. port to an additional U.S. port such as Hawaii or any of the contiguous states. Likewise, the airline can travel from a foreign port, and then between Guam and the CNMI (or vice versa), and back to the foreign port. Today, the federal law does not authorize the movement of foreign carriers between two U.S. ports. In essence, the passage of this bill will promote competition, which ultimately helps in the reduction of the costs of travel.

Resolution 441-37 recognizes the importance of an air cabotage exemption for Guam and the CNMI and sends a clear message to the federal government that our island faces a significant issue that affects our economy, international and domestic trade, and cost of living. This measure is indicative of the virtue we continue to express with our colleagues in Congress, that what works in the continental United States does not always work for Guam.

Additionally, H.R. 8786 does not only help Guam and the CNMI, but also every island in the region. When legislators came to Guam last month for the Mariana Islands Legislature Association assembly, they adopted a resolution expressing support for this bill. By having Guam well-connected at a reasonable price with Asia and the mainland, our brothers and sisters from other Pacific islands will benefit. This problem with high airline costs is not just a Guam problem, but a Pacific islands problem.

By bringing more airline competitors to Guam, our economy will only grow. New airlines flying in and out of Guam will result in not only more tourists who can visit the island, but also more jobs will be created, an infusion to our tax base will also be established, and new fees will be added to facilitate airline and airport operations. I agree with the Legislature in that we only see good things coming from this bill for our people and the region.

An air cabotage exemption for Guam is a bipartisan issue because it affects everyday consumers and aims to strike down a large financial burden that hundreds of thousands of people face in the region. I thank my colleague and Democratic co-lead on this bill, Congressman Kilili Sablan from the CNMI and the senators in the 37th Guam Legislature who have cosponsored this resolution. When we work

together across ideological lines, we can enact meaningful legislative results for our people and community; this starts with lowering the cost of flights and opening Guam to foreign airlines.

This issue requires a strong educational campaign, which our office has initiated with Member offices in the House of Representatives. However, for the message to be resonated loudly, we need to share that the challenges with rising airline costs is a community problem and having a measure like Resolution 441-37 certainly helps the cause. Likewise, our office will be seeking supportive documents from Governor Lou Leon Guerrero, and the Mayors Council of Guam. We urge Senators to pass this resolution at the earliest opportunity.

One too many times, our people miss weddings, funerals, graduations, reunions, or even the opportunity for college kids to visit their parents, or sadly, for one to see their parents and loved ones because they miss them, due to the cost of travel. Something needs to be done. I thank Vice Speaker Muna-Barnes, and Senator Jesse Lujan, along with other Members of the 37th Guam Legislature for taking the initiative in brining this issue to the forefront, for introducing this resolution, and for supporting the intent of H.R. 8786. Thank you.

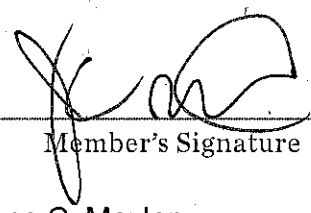
Si yu'os ma'ase and please do not hesitate to reach our office should you have any questions or would like to speak on this matter further.

Respectfully,



James Moylan
Member of Congress

H. R. #/H. J. Res. #


Member's Signature

James C. Moylan
Member's Name (printed)

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

To accompany:

MOYLAN_165_xml

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of Rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the U.S. Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

Constitutional Authority Statement

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

Single Subject Statement

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8786

To allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2024

Mr. MOYLAN (for himself and Mr. SABLAN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Pacific Island Flight
5 Alternatives Act of 2024” or “PIFAA”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Limited air competition has made flights
2 from Guam to the Commonwealth of Northern Mar-
3 iana Islands or to Hawaii exceedingly expensive.

4 (2) The airports of Antonio B. Won Pat Guam
5 International Airport (IATA: GUM), Francisco C.
6 Ada Saipan International Airport (IATA: SPN),
7 Francisco Manglona Borja Tinian International Air-
8 port (IATA: TIQ), and Benjamin Taisacan
9 Manglona Rota International Airport (IATA: ROP)
10 rely on foreign air carriers for travel.

11 (3) The nations of Japan, Philippines, and the
12 Republic of Korea have been critical allies for the
13 United States within the Indo-Pacific region.

14 (4) The nations of Japan, Philippines, and the
15 Republic of Korea and the air carriers of such na-
16 tions have been vital in supplementing deficiencies of
17 United States air carriers when flying between the
18 United States and other Pacific Islands.

19 **SEC. 3. AIR COMMERCE IN GUAM AND NORTHERN MAR-**
20 **IANA ISLANDS.**

21 Section 41703 of title 49, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(f) AIR COMMERCE IN GUAM AND NORTHERN MAR-
24 IANA ISLANDS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection
2 (c), passengers or cargo added to or removed from
3 an authorized Pacific aircraft at a place in Guam or
4 the Northern Mariana Islands in the course of trans-
5 portation of such passengers or cargo in either direc-
6 tion between a place in the United States and a
7 place outside the United States shall not be deemed
8 to have broken the international journey of such au-
9 thorized Pacific aircraft.

10 “(2) AUTHORIZED PACIFIC AIRCRAFT.—In this
11 subsection, the term ‘authorized Pacific aircraft’
12 means an aircraft registered to a foreign air carrier
13 from Japan, Philippines, or the Republic of Korea
14 that holds a permit under section 41302.”.

○



Office of the Vice Speaker

TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan

37th Guam Legislature

COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) - Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin

RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

I. OVERVIEW

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) was introduced on July 1, 2024 by Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin. The Resolution was referred by the Committee on Rules to the Author on July 2, 2024.

The Author convened a public hearing on Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) on August 3, 2024 in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building). The Public Hearing began at 5:58 PM and was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Public Notice Requirements

In accordance with the Open Government Law, public notices for the Public Hearing were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets; via television advertisement on PBS Guam; and on the Government of Guam's Public Notice website on Friday, July 26, 2024 (5-Day Notice), and on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 (48-Hour Notice). The public notice was also published in the Guam Legislature website.

Senators Present

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Senator Jesse A. Lujan

II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION

The public hearing was called to order at 5:58 PM.

Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes – Buenas yan Håfa Adai Todus Hamyo! Si Yu'os Ma'åse' for joining us at this evening for this joint public hearing which I will call to order at 5:58 pm. I do again extend my apologies to all the folks present here this evening and to the listening audience for the technical difficulties we had but I also want to thank the audio

team for staying strong with me and Senator Lan to make this hearing possible for us this evening uh

For the record and in accordance with 5 GCA, Chapter 8, Subsection 8107, Public hearing notices were sent out on Friday, July 26, 2024 Adhering to the (5) day notice requirement, and a second public notice on Wednesday, July 31, 2024, forty-hours prior. In addition, this hearing was noticed on the legislature's website – www.guamlegislature.com; the Government of Guam's Public Notice website; and through a TV advertisement on PBS Guam.

Written testimonies may be submitted by emailing senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org or you may hand deliver to our office at Suite 411 - 134 W. Soledad Avenue, Hagåtña Guam and also uh to um the um Guam legislature to either Vice speaker Tina Muña Barnes or Senator Jesse Lujan whatever email is that.

Joining me uh ladies and gentlemen this evening we have senator uh Jesse Lujan also uh the author of Resolution 447-37. I'd be remiss ladies and gentlemen if I didn't take the time to recognize one of our former colleagues who was here in the 27th Guam legislature he is the executive manager for the Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport uh thank you very much Senator John Quinata Executive Manager for being here this evening to testify.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have two items on the Agenda, as main sponsor, I will be hearing:

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS) - Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin
RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

And Senator Jesse Lujan, as main sponsor, will be hearing:

Resolution No. 447-37 (COR) - Sponsor(s) - Jesse A. Lujan / Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Joanne M. Brown / Therese M. Terlaje / Joe S. San Agustin / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Sabina Flores Perez / Telo T. Taitague / Chris Barnett / Roy A. B. Quinata / Frank Blas, Jr. / Thomas J. Fisher - Relative to requesting the United States Secretary of Transportation to authorize a temporary twenty-four (24) consecutive month exemption to expand cargo and passenger flexibility at the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, Guam and allow certain foreign air carriers to stop in Guam in the course of transportation of passengers or cargo in either direction between a place in the United States and a place outside the United States, and for other purposes.

Because the two resolutions are similar, we will go ahead and accept testimony for both resolutions at the same time. That's in order to save time and just make it uh easier for all of you guys here that wish to uh um present.

Before we proceed with the discussion, I would first like to provide some General Rules of Conduct for all who are in attendance. The conduct of this hearing shall be as follows:

1. Those testifying will be recognized in the order of Sign-up on the sign-in sheet.
2. Written testimony may be read and submitted to the Committee. Please provide our Legislative staff with your written testimony for photocopying.
3. Persons will be allowed to present oral testimony only once. Lengthy testimony should be summarized to five (5) minutes. Once you are done, please remain in the room for any questions by my colleagues.
4. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance or nature of the agenda. Personal inference as to the character or the motive of any Senator, or any individual testifying, is NOT permitted. Any violations of this general rule of conduct will result in removal from the hearing Room.
5. When you speak, please make sure that the microphone is 'on' and that you speak INTO the microphone.
6. Please state your name for the record and where you're from.

Those who do not follow these rules of engagement, will be removed from this public hearing room. Additionally, please also state which resolution you will be speaking on.

With that being said, we will move on to opening statements. I promise mine is not too long and then I will yield to Senator Lujan.

Good Evening, I first want to extend our appreciation to Congressman Moylan and his office for their work on H.R. 8786. This resolution expresses our strong support for H.R. 8786, a critical piece of legislation aimed at addressing the significant challenges posed by current aviation cabotage laws on Guam and the CNMI. These outdated restrictions have long limited our access to competitive air travel options, resulting in higher costs and fewer choices for residents and businesses.

As we all know, the region relies heavily on air travel. The lack of affordable flights and airlines flying to our island is a point of contention, especially between leaders in this region and industry stakeholders.

We have seen these debates play out for years with resolutions after resolutions at conferences like at the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and even the Mariana Islands Legislatures Association.

H.R. 8786 will allow foreign airlines to operate flights between Guam, the CNMI and other U.S. points. This change is not just about lowering transportation costs; it's about opening up new opportunities for economic growth, enhancing connectivity, and improving the overall quality of life for our island communities.

With the limited resources we have, we often can't compete with other economies offering better incentive packages to airlines. The passage of H.R. 8786 will be a great tool for the government to attract airlines and provide a much-needed relief to our stagnant economies.

I thank Congressman Moylan and his staff for thinking outside the box through pushing for a cabotage exemption. Thank you.

I will now turn it over to Senator Lujan for his opening.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Thank you very much Vice Speaker Barnes. Good evening everybody and hafa adai again thank you for coming out this evening to testify either for or against the these resolutions. I want to thank uh of course the the vice speaker for allowing uh again a joint um hearing tonight this is uh an example of your government saving money um and she paid for it her office paid for it so save my office money.

But anyway and uh again all joking aside, I'm uh Senator Jesse Anderson Lujan of course the vice chair for the Committee on Maritime, Transportation, uh Air transportation, Parks, Tourism, Higher Education, Advancement of Women, Youth and Senior Citizens and I just want to say that uh although the uh the resolutions are very similar um they take a two-prong approach in uh in what we're trying to do.

Of course the resolution that's 441? uh Vice speaker? 441 supports the effort of course of our Congressman Jim Moylan, that resolution uh goes through the Congressional side of the house. My resolution I'll be reading goes to the Department of Transportation side of the house so we're hitting a two-prong uh approach in this thing.

And the reason why I'm going through this approach because there's precedent set already and likewise we had gone through this back in 2006, I think uh Frank? 2006 and we were able to get an exemption we asked for a full exemption of both the passenger and cargo unfortunately we got half, and the Department of Transportation um allowed us um the the um cargo exemption but they did not allow us the uh the um the passenger exemption.

So, now that um again precedence had been set in Puerto Rico, and I'll be reading that uh, precedence had been set based on their economic instability and likewise uh uh hurricanes that had devastated their uh their country um it's been it has uh again uh precedence have been set and so we're using that same argument because prior, again, to 2006, I used an argument very similar that granted Hawaii and Alaska an exemption. And basically that

had mentioned they said you know um this could be applicable to Guam however Guam hasn't asked for it. So, we did, so we asked for it ,we got it, we asked for the full loaf but we got half of it.

So this one here I think uh and the nice thing about this is as uh the vice speaker had mentioned is uh about um little less than a month ago we had a joint session with the CNMI folks here and we the first on the agenda in regards to resolution is again the exemption of cabotage and both, not only Congressman Moylan is on board but um Congressman Kalili as well is on board asking for the exemption. So, we have got both our congressmen on board we have the voice of this legislature as well on board. I know uh the governor and speaking to her and the lieutenant governor they're on board in regard to the exemption of uh of cabotage. And I know that also they they they're pushing for the exemption the total exemption of the uh of the Jones act as well.

So, we're very optimistic I think this is this is a great time for it we uh we can leverage the the um you know what is happening out here in the our part of the world in this Indo-Pacific in regards to the military buildup and I'm sure we'll hear testimony as well that uh or have testimony that we'll be able to to forward um uh again to uh the Department of Transportation.

Once again let me thank everybody for coming out uh uh this evening and being here I introduce Resolution No. 447-37 (COR) to address the need for greater Air transport, Air passenger, and cargo flexibility at our Guam International Airport and accelerate our Islands economic recovery. Like Vice Speaker's Resolution 441, the impetus of this legislation stems from the challenges we face due to limited air competition and high air travel costs which collectively burdens our residents visitors and military personnel. Ultimately hindering our economic growth and the expansion of our air transportation services regionally and globally.

Resolution 447 requests a 2-year exemption allowing for the transfer of cargo and passenger between uh aircraft changes in aircraft and mixing of uh International domestic cargo and passengers and transfers between U.S. and foreign carriers as well as between foreign carriers um here in Guam.

In consideration of the military buildup and the negative impacts of Covid-19 pandemic and Typhoon Mawar on our tourism industry, now is the time to once again revisit air passenger and cargo flexibility for our island. It is imperative to acknowledge the historical context and previous efforts of our Island leaders regarding air transportation rights for Guam. From the petition the early 2000s to the recent uh initiatives like the Pacific island flight Alternatives Act of 2024 introduced by Congressman James C. Moylan and Congressman Gregorio Kalili Sablan, there has been a consistent push to improve Air Service access and economic opportunities for our Island.

As a longtime advocate for enhancing Air Services at Guam International Airport, we spearheaded similar initiatives like open Skies during my previous term in office and never gave up on the vision of a more robust travel industry on Guam. But unlike our previous Endeavors, the uh and predecessors we now have the president in Puerto Rico a US Territory has has recently been successful in receiving an air passenger and cargo flexibility exemption from the DOT. Subsequently this exemption proved successful and promote economic activity, reduce travel costs, and increase passenger and traffic uh passenger and cargo traffic all of which acknowledge Puerto Rico's unique geographical and economic positions.

This development is a game changer for Guam and other territories governed by the current cabotage laws. Like Puerto Rico, Guam is a US Territory with unique locality economic uh dependencies and challenges. Given these commonalities I believe Guam has a similar case to Puerto Rico and granting us the same exemption will benefit both our island economy and the U.S. strategic interest in the Indo-Pacific region.

I commend the Puerto Rican government for continuing to fight for air transportation rights and succeeding. Furthermore, I want to commend the Department of Transportation for considering the plight of Puerto Rico who also suffered from the negative effects of the pandemic and devastating hurricanes. I hope Guam receives the same gracious deliberation and decision. Achieving the exemption of Resolution 447 will reduce air costs for our residents, our visitors, foster economic growth, and strengthen our ties with key allies in the Indo-Pacific region.

The government of Guan remains committed to promoting the island's economic development, ensuring a stable sustainable future for its residents. This exemption is a critical step towards revitalizing our economy and enhancing our connectivity to the world. We look forward to working with the Department of Transportation to achieve this goal. With that um Madam Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: si Yu'os ma'åse' Senator Lujan. So at this time I will recognize those uh who have signed up in the sign-in sheet and when I call your name please have a seat at the table, please don't forget to state your name for the record and then you may begin your testimony and make sure the um mic is on.

I will do something a little bit different this evening we do have one person who's been waiting on Zoom a long time and I'm if it's okay with those here I'm going to go ahead and allow that because of what we what's been happening with our audio we'll go go ahead and try that I'm going to go ahead and have Lauren Cabrera will be testifying on zoom and before she starts I'm going to call up Mr. Kiran Toh, Legislative Aide for Delegate, Congressman James Moylan. He will read the delegates' testimony you can please have a seat at the table.

I do have the Executive Manager former Senator John Quinata who will pre be presenting uh how many more chairs do I have up there.
I understand there is a Judy Havrilla, please you can have a seat on the table
Tim Havrilla uh stated uh he's here to listen.
Hadeo Owano from JAL he's here in support would you like to speak orally also? okay uh just here to support to listen, too.
And then uh Junghyun, Ryu here to listen or to support or speak orally? Just listen. Okay.
Nari Taimanglo. Listen.
Healim Kang. Listen. Okay.
Kang Hyunwook, listen. Okay.
Lauren is here with us online from GAIN.
Deputy Manager Hernandez.
Senator Quinata please join us on the table.
Mr. Santos are you also here to speak and give oral testimony? okay you're more than welcome to the table with you sir.
Thank you Senator um

Senator Jesse Lujan: Have you folks read um either of the resolutions either one or both? Okay okay

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: and then uh if I am missing we...

Alison Hadley.
Brenda Smith. If there's an extra chair please come on okay okay great in support.
There's a Tim Clark.
Kim Jung Wook, is that Jeju Air?
Scott Kelly.
Dorene Kanoh, oh Dorene, yes.
And uh and uh Mike?
Kim Eun Jung, just listen. thank you uh thank you.

There are four pages of names here... *(Inaudible conversation with Mr. Hideo Owano stating he is here to observe the public hearing)* to observe... thank you.

And I just want to say thank you for coming out, whether you're here to listen, to support, to to give uh oral support, I just want to extend my thank yous to all of you being here we almost have a crowded room.

um I will go ahead and start with Lauren Cabrera. Audio if you can get her on and we will go ahead and start with you Ms. Cabrera, go ahead and state your name for the record if you're in support or not in support of the resolutions one or the other or both and you may you may present your testimony. Thank you for your patience and understanding please proceed.

Lauren Cabrera: Thank you so much for having me here. My name is Lauren Cabrera and I'm testifying in support of both resolutions.

Lauren Cabrera reads written testimony attached to the Committee Report

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Ms. Cabrera thank you so much for your patience and thank you for your testimony. At this time I will go ahead and acknowledge the legislative aide to delegate, Congressman James Moylan. Mr. Kiran Toh, please proceed with your with the testimony to be read.

Kiran Toh: Thank you very much Vice Speaker Muña Barnes and Senator Lujan for having me today um again my name is Kiran Toh and I'm the legislative aid for Congressman Moylan and I will read his written testimony today.

Kiran Toh reads testimony from the Honorable James C. Moylan, attached to the Author's Report.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Thank you very much Kiran. Executive Manager um Senator former Senator John Quinata, you may proceed.

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Thank you ma'am.

Executive Manager John M. Quinata reads from testimony attached to the Author's Report.

Vice Speaker Muña Barnes: Thank you very much Senator Quinata. At this time I recognize, please proceed.

Judy Havilla: Hello thank you for allowing me to speak Senator Lujan and Vice Speaker Muña Barnes. I appreciate it very much my name is Judy Harvilla um my husband is on a rotation he uh is about half the year here on Guam and I accompany him him he's been doing this for about three years and I've been volunteering at the Guam Animals in Need animal shelter this whole time.

So on our first trip here I started volunteering at the shelter right away this was shortly after the island opened up from Covid again and um of course I walked all the dogs and everything like this all wonderful wonderful animals and uh we particularly fell in love with one named Leila. Saw her day after day took her out of her kennel first every time and when it came time for us to go back I didn't have a way to take her with us and uh on the last day I promised her that if there was a way to bring her home I would and we left. The whole way down the runway on that plane I cried, because I was leaving this dog behind.

Come to find out, when it was clear that we had left, Leila started chewing the bars of her kennel from distress and six weeks after we were home it turned out she could have a Boonie flight and Boonie flights is a wonderful charity organization that through a lot of hard work and effort is able to arrange for dogs to fly to the mainland. So, at that point she went into foster care for another 6 weeks and there was some expense involved and she got a flight and she came home to us. You never saw a happier dog.

So, since then you know we've been on and off the island numerous times and we've taken three more dogs home their names are Leila and Flora and Snowball and Frankie. They're wonderful animals a lot of expense a lot of hard work from a lot of people but these dogs are worth it and they're wonderful ambassadors for Guam people always ask me about them comment how well behaved they are how unique they are how friendly.

I'm thankful that we have these dogs and I'm thankful for the hard work that's gone into it and I'd like to say that I think it doesn't have to be so difficult there are so many dogs at the shelter that are good dogs and could have homes dogs that have been left behind by their families. I'm in support of both resolutions I hope that they'll pass and become a part of life here on Guam thank you.

Vice Speaker Muña Barnes: You're very very welcome and thank you for your brave testimony and hearing that you have adopted more dogs just makes us feel good. I, when you were speaking, I was looking at my brother-in-law the senator because he too has many many dogs at home and literally treats them like their children and and understanding the the desire to want to take them but you can't because we don't have that access here yet. So supporting both resolutions it will literally help this this issue of concern that is not just affected by you but by others in the community who have um loved pets and and want to take them with them and all that.

And I too have a granddaughter whose husband is stationed in Germany and we literally had to pay thousands and thousands and thousands of dollars with no exaggeration to bring them to and from twice over and and the need for for King to be next to Kristiana was very very key and important but it had to go through a charter route because there was no other way so I I truly appreciate your presentation and your story this evening thank you.

Go ahead and I'll have you speak please proceed state your name for the record, yes.

Alison Hadley: Thank you very much uh h my name is Allison Hadley and I'm the Director for the GAIN animal shelter. First I would just like to say si Yu'os Ma'ase' Vice Speaker Muna Barnes and Senator Lujan as well as the other Senators for giving us this opportunity. I have been the director for the past nine years and I have also called Guahan my home for the last 15 years.

For over a decade in my experience the community has made huge changes in the area of Animal Welfare through more lowcost Veterinary Services, pet supply stores, pet focused events, Education and Outreach on Pet Care, and also through the ability to ship pets stateside.

Shipping pets to interested adopters and stateside shelters that are actually lacking adoptable pets was a very important avenue that GAIN used to ease some of the burden on the shelter it's a morale booster for those of us who work with these animals every day as well as the community to see the good outcomes for these pets and of course shipping a pet is quite literally the only way to keep a family truly connected.

Unfortunately United Airlines has completely eliminated their pet safe program which has prevented many of these pets to remain with their families and it has hit our Island community quite hard. Military families are subjected to pretty limited and very selective processes to ship their family pets with only four spots available per day, unrealistic time frames, and hoops to jump through. And this is only available if you have PCS orders. And even then, at a last minute it can still be denied.

Local families, non-military families, however have been completely disregarded and don't even have the option to utilize these four spaces that I've mentioned earlier they are forced to go through pet travel agents and chartered flight options which a lot of times are way beyond their financial reach. So, where do all of these pets go that can't fly? Well they come to GAIN and they are also left on the already overcrowded streets of the island.

The actions or lack of action taken by United Airlines have not only hindered the operations of the shelter as well as Boonie flight project and eliminated options for families who want to keep their four-legged family members, but their actions have also added to our work our workload through almost daily pet relinquishments from both military and non-military families who are unable to take their pets with them. And also through just simple abandonment by others who don't make the effort to come to the shelter and bring the pets to us a lot of those pets still end up coming to our doors.

By eliminating these cabotage restrictions many families will be able to remain with their pets we will be able to continue flying deserving shelter pets to excited adopter Stateside who as Judy mentioned love guahan Boon dogs and cats um this in result takes the pressure off of the shelter who we are already drowning in the animal overpopulation issue and it also takes the pressure off of community members to try and figure out what to do with their furry companions if flight is not an option. And my testimony is not meant to be focused on hating on United but it is truly to ask why our community has once again been left with zero options for a very real and a very serious issue for many. A viable issue or viable solution for this particular problem has been found through this introduced legislation uh let us fully utilize it for the sake of our community and the sake of the boonie animals. Si yu'os Ma'ase'.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Thank you very much and before I ask Senator Lujan to read some of the testimonies that have been provided to us I'm just going to go over I have two more list of names I may I I hope I'm not repeating any of them uh I will note that the names I read off earlier the several pages that I read off were all um uh here and those that were here and I called all of them had uh in support of and and checked off written and uh but not oral the names.

I will say again uh Jongbok Lee from Jin Air. Support?
uh from Jin Air Paul Kim. In support?
uh Renee Lao, in support?
uh Nancy Kwan, China. in support
and um I want to say Meagan Cummings, in support or would you like to speak? thank you.

uh I want to make sure we just make sure we record all your names because you're here for support, here to listen and want to see where these resolutions will go to. So I want to make sure that your names are uh are appended into our committee report in support of.

And the last two names I have a Nancy Kwan, China Airlines in support there again and Megan Cummings I think I said that earlier right in support so I do have a couple of testimonies I will ask Senator Lan to read them because I think they're also important to make sure that we have them read for the listening audience and to all of you here and we can append it into the committee journal also. So Senator Lujan, please proceed.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Yeah thank you very much uh Vice speaker um yeah just again before before I read it um the folks that uh that are here that represent Airlines and here to to listen um um we'll have 10 days we'll be receiving testimony up to 10 days I know that PAL will be um will be submitting testimony uh to the the committee as well um um and so I'll read because we've got we received three three written testimony and let me read Korean Airlines testimony first okay and this is Jung Hyon Ryu right are you here yeah okay and be read to the record from Korean Airlines.

Senator Jesse Lujan reads testimony for Resolution No. 447-37 (COR).

And I'm sure you're in support of 441 as well right absolutely okay.

And this is from t'way. Is anybody from t'way here? Okay.

Senator Jesse Lujan reads testimony for Resolution No. 447-37 (COR).

And this is uh Jeju Air, Eun Jung Kim, is Eun Jung here? thank you. Okay

Senator Jesse Lujan reads testimony for Resolution No. 447-37 (COR)

And as I said earlier I think PAL will be also uh presenting a uh testimony as well so I encourage again folks who have signed up that did not submit testimony please do. I would encourage you to do so the the the more that we can uh submit to both Congress and um and Department of Transportation the better. It's going to be for us it'll make the plight a little easier it's it's not going to make it I mean it' be a little easier it's not going it's it's a hard fought battle but it makes it a little easier when we have everybody speaking you know uh or reading from the same page um so with with that can I ask a couple questions

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Yeah um please proceed Senator.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Yeah, thank you very much again uh uh Vice speaker you know we go back to the uh 27th Guam Legislature and Senator Quinata was there when we served when we uh of course uh passed that resolution well asking for the exemption we're again long story short we got cargo got passenger service Frank uh was one of the lead guys as consultant that help help us write the uh the um the argument to present to DOT. Along with um, you know, it was an expensive endeavor because we didn't have, Frank, we didn't have the the specialized attorney here, right?

So, we had to hire a a uh aviation specialized, aviation attorney back there right in Washington. Is that, is that true? That's correct, right? okay. And of course Ricky Ricky was I think still in middle school getting really smart Okay uh and so now he's really smart you know and he has joined the forces at and he's one of the the the lead uh persons at at the airport now that uh that uh again this that's uh you know putting uh putting a lot of effort into into this uh this uh these arguments as well. So, thank you very much but over the years uh Frank can you tell us because I know that it it took an arm and a leg to be able to uh you know we needed to expand the airport. Okay. The runway the airport we have since expanded have we not?

Frank Santos: Yes Senator we have.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Okay now we can do non-stop flights now from to the West the West Coast do we not?

Frank Santos: With our 2,000 feet extensions of the primary runway, making it 12,000 ft, we can reach any US city.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Okay, that being that being said, we have we have one we have one airline that flies to the US Mainland why have they not done a non-stop flight?

Frank Santos: One of the reasons why we decided to go an extension was that the predecessor to the current incumbent which is Continental was uh envisioning a non-stop

flight from Houston to Guam so we made every effort to extend our infrastructure as well as uh in terms of cargo having all cargo aircraft also being able to make the flight overseas to Mainland US.

Senator Jesse Lujan: So, the infrastructure is there should a a um a um exemption or full out, I mean yeah 24 month exemption or full out exemption from the cabotage, the infrastructure is there to be able to to handle the um the say the our current foreign carriers that that come to Guam?

Frank Santos: That's correct Senator the we have the air field capacity I know we also have the terminal capacity to handle those flights.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Are we still, I think at at one point, I don't know if they're still doing, I know it's pre-pandemic doing, is uh PAL still doing are they still doing technical flights technical flight to Guam or...?

Frank Santos: No uh my understanding is PAL has upgraded their aircraft therefore not uh requiring technical stops to refuel here in Guam because of the headwinds that they're facing now they're they're their planes are more modern and now can overfly us.

Senator Jesse Lujan: They overfly us okay so we're not gener, we're not generating revenue from from that stop right?

Frank Santos: that's correct.

Senator Jesse Lujan: okay um can you explain again to to the the public out there the efforts that that the airport has made and what really this grants the airport to be able to do the exemption because Airlines right now foreign Airlines come to Guam and have to return home. Guam is counted as the first US destination uh is it not?

Frank Santos: that's correct.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Okay so what we're trying what we're trying to do here is trying to trying to get either Congress or Department to Transportation to not consider Guam as the first board of destination or first U.S. destination or grant us one more one more U.S. destination outside Guam is that correct? Can you...

Frank Santos: That's correct again yeah um that's that's true Senator um cabotage allows the foreign carrier to come to Guam uh drop off and pick up passengers or cargo then continue to another U.S. Point um including C.N.M.I. So, that we we lack that Authority at this point in time. We have all the justification that we need to support that but uh you know uh cabotage restrictions, that's what similar to The Jones Act, is more is national

protectionist legislation. So uh what we need to do is show how remote we are. We're not going to make any US air carrier broke as a result of permitting cabotage from this island.

Senator Jesse Lujan: okay and and let me shoot it out to anyone out there I'm Ricky Rick's a numbers guy you know but let me ask you this because either any of our foreign airlines that that come to Guam now and have to go back home a lot of them have an Open Skies Agreement as well to to fly to either L.A. or what other just and then come back home, right.

Can you uh tell us the difference between say like maybe a Korean Air from Korea or or PAL flying from from uh from Manila say to L.A., a roundtrip ticket from their home destination um to say L.A. versus Guam which is a lot closer um but our ticket prices are a lot higher are they not?

Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez - Deputy Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: thanks Senator uh Ricky Hernandez, Deputy Executive Manager Airport um, I can't necessarily speak to uh times of the year of when airfare is but um it has been anecdotally discussed about um the variance in airfare between destinations that might be longer as opposed to destinations from Guam to the same place uh so um but I can't speak specifically to airfare rates and what costs go into it.

But definitely we believe that uh with cabotage exemption uh that'll increase potential competition therefore lowering the airfare rate um so that Airlines can, we've seen that that happen in other um locations. When we had the airlines flying from uh Guam to the C.N.M.I. uh when there was uh a smaller carrier that was that had um canceled their um their flights between Guam and C.N.M.I. there was we did see somewhat of a a drop in airfare um from the other competition uh so we do we have seen some small uh sample sizes in other areas that competition does reduce airfare.

Senator Jesse Lujan: well I I know this I know this to be the fact as well because back then in 2006 or even prior to that and I think 2006 when we formally petitioned DOT, that prior to the I guess merger of um um Continental and United it was it was it was Continental at the time and Continental will fly from Manila, Guam, pick up passengers here and go to destination say L.A. or something or San Francisco.

And so the passengers that will embark in the plane in Manila are actually paying between \$300 and \$400 less than the passenger, that they that same plane will pick up in Guam and fly you know uh less hours. 3-hour flight away longer flight pays a lot less coming here as opposed to the passenger that purchases a ticket here in Guam with a shorter flight to the West Coast.

And the reason being is because these home countries that have flights they have competitive air. That those same those same the same same airline of that time has an Open

Skies Agreement with with the their that prospective country. And so that's why you know again as a U.S. Territory really really treat it terribly I mean we have this and the Jones Act and these are the things again that uh I wish that again the folks here um spread this word out there because it's these are inequities these are some of the things that that help us. If we get a relief with this will help us you know our economic sustainability it really would.

The airport is ready, the airport is expanded, they need to expand even more but uh maybe you can tell us some of the inquiries you're get you're getting from from airlines. But I mean again um I know talking to all the foreign airlines here and even some of the airlines that we've visited um want to come here but they also want to go to one other destination and not only for the passenger side but a lot of them are interested in the cargo side of as well.

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: That's right. So can you imagine uh Senator if if that uh waiver was to be approved, you have a you got United of course flying here to Honolulu but can you imagine foreign carriers coming to Guam and then not flying to Honolulu but maybe flying to San Francisco and the another foreign carrier flying to Seattle or what so they're not taking the Honolulu um ticket away.

But if they can have that opportunity to fly from Guam to other destinations in the US and then back that would definitely promote competition and that would draw down the uh the prices. Also for foreign carriers to come here and then fly to Saipan to C.N.M.I. and then back to their thing that that will also drive competition and definitely lower the price uh going to C.N.M.I. and stuff so definitely that this resolution if it goes through uh will assist us in in getting more competition to the island.

Senator Jesse Lujan: actually it's it's cheaper to fly from here to Manila and stay two or three days than to fly to here to Saipan.

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: That's correct that's correct.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Mr., Dr. Hernandez.

Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Ph.D. - Deputy Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Yes, Senator thanks and I I'll just add to you know the airport we're very aggressive in terms of trying to increase air service. We utilize all the tools in, you know, our toolbox to be able to entice or incentivize Airlines. Partnering with the Guam Visitors Bureau is one because they can provide different airline incentives that we may not be able to because we're an airport um regulated by the FAA.

But the airport has done much as much as we could uh in terms of providing airline incentives for new entrance uh for new destinations that current airlines might be able to fly to um but you know adding this possibility of um different carriers foreign carriers being able to carry passengers or cargo to other U.S. destinations could be another very very big tool in our tool box and I think in terms of um you know our ability to Market Guam as as well as the airport.

Because as uh Frank Santos mentioned you know we have the facilities, we have the capacity, um we just need uh additional incentives to get airlines to be able to come to Guam or see that Guam is profitable enough to um you know uh place them themselves physically here as a lot of the airlines behind us have been able to do uh and make that investment. And us um the airline as well as Guam Visitors Bureau, sorry the airport and the GVB be able to package incentives for them to um see that that's something that they could um you know jump into for the airport.

Because it's a it's an upfront cost to start a route and we understand that and so that's why there's incentives on both sides um to be able to start that uh and then hopefully continue on as what we call signatory airlines uh and you know recognizing a lot of the signatory airlines behind us who have been very good partners with us. Appreciate uh always appreciate their support um and um and uh encourage you know sure additional flights as they can but we're always looking for opportunities and this these resolutions uh that support um you know these exemptions are something that we can really use to marker Guam.

Senator Jesse Lujan: And you know the other thing that most folks don't realize is the the fact that I mean we we would love people to come to Guam and visit and stay and spend a few days here in Guam and all that but the importance of a transit passenger as well. You know, in regard to maybe even just an hour or two transit. They spend a lot of money in airports spend a lot of money in airports you know. I mean I think uh how much is your water now? \$19.99 or something like that? Got to work on that.

No no but but really yeah you know how many transit passengers do you get a year as opposed to to to the landing and getting off and yeah?

Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Ph.D. - Deputy Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Yeah it depends on the year I think um I don't have the exact number off top of my head but it's um pre-pandemic it might have been around uh 200,000. We're almost about that um this you know current year it's in the 100,000, I believe, between 100,000 and 200,000.

But, transit passengers, you're correct, that's a revenue source for the airport um I believe with this resolution and the support of it uh of the overall policy objective um transit passengers are very helpful to the airport even if they don't stop on Guam.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Sure.

Artemio “Ricky” Hernandez, Ph.D. - Deputy Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: uh so you know that's that's definitely another source of revenue.

Senator Jesse Lujan: I mean, yeah, your vendors your vendors that are there. Food vendors, you know, all your concessioners absolutely yeah.

John “JQ” M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: and Senator we've proven the fact during Covid. The movement of cargo uh when, we didn't have passenger uh services or passengers going through our airport, we had tremendous buildup of cargo aircraft that was coming through our through Guam to the mainland.

Senator Jesse Lujan: You know, one of the other things, can I just get an update uh on on this because one of the things that I know that we've been working on too is pre-clearance um what is the latest on on the possibility of pre-clearance?

John “JQ” M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: So it's getting very close for pre-clearance where that uh uh when you do leave from here uh on Guam for both cargo and uh passengers that you will be you'll be treated like a domestic flight. So, CBP is uh that much closer uh to making sure that that happens they just need to make sure that they're uh the ability for them to pre-clear a passenger that's transiting from a foreign country can be cleared here on Guam and their and their um their luggages and that's the key.

Senator Jesse Lujan: And that will be applicable to flying um to the West Coast as well or going?

John “JQ” M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Yes sir, yes sir.

so can you make sure that when they consider us domestic again they still feed us going between Guam and Honolulu...

John “JQ” M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Yes, that's a different

Senator Jesse Lujan: ... because I remember they didn't yeah when when they started to they you're domestic so we're not going to feed you we're not going to feed you for that 8 hour flight.

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: that's right so maybe with this and the competitions there they will start to feed us again because I'm pretty sure that the uh foreign carriers will take care of us and which they usually do.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Sure and we applaud and we we thank foreign carriers thank you very much for your thank you very much for your services I know uh I know Senator Barnes uh myself and and Senator Duenas as well um um I think it was last year?

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: No beginning this year.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Yeah and uh we had also flew to um to Taiwan uh looking at that uh possibility of of medical referrals and things of that nature and and it's great it just took us almost a whole day to get there. But you know if they would have uh uh direct flights as well from Taiwan it'd be three plus hours to get to get the Guam and again they they can definitely handle as well uh you know medical emergencies and they said you know their airport they can they can get a uh a trauma patient from the from the airport to their Hospital in in about 5 minutes. Yeah and so those are the things that and and again and I know I know the we had approached uh was Starlux and um and Tiger Air uh at that time.

But you know the sustainability of course and again you know if we had the they had the exemption um I think most will will jump on board right away um because you know, I mean I mean um um um the sustainability you need to at least fly three days three three times a week or something to to sustain that um charters are are great but um you know um. Anyway they can't sustain the you know the the the their economic uh um viability, right?

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: So yeah so so senator for the folks that are here from GAIN. Thank you for coming out and doing that but I I feel their pain my daughter works on Anderson Air Force Base she's a uh Civil Service employee and two of the animal or two of the dogs that we have uh adopted was because of the reasons right the uh us uh service members leaving the island and they were going to abandon their um their dogs and so my daughter of course being the soft heart that she is has brought them home and now I'm a Daddy to a German Shepherd.

But um I love those dogs and uh like what Senator Barnes has said cuz I I uh have a wife that looks exactly like her, her twin sister, my wife is her twin sister so definitely also senator from the from the pets perspective from the airport side we also had difficulty, our canines, uh dogs that we have at the airport to make sure that uh our passengers and our cargo are free from explosives and all that we also have difficulties getting our canines back and forth from the U.S. Mainland.

So unlike uh unlike other um military personnel, the state government, we also have difficulties and we have to wait for a charter flight to make sure that our our canines get on board so yes this thing will definitely help.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Thank you uh very much thank you uh Senator Lujan. As I was uh hearing uh Senator Quinata speak on on just from a family perspective and and trying to take care of of the the pets that they love so much and then having to give them up because it, they they just don't have the means to take them back with them because the opportunities are not there um I I can feel I can feel for all of you and having you guys here this evening having the airlines here this evening having those in the listening audience who who really uh want to see these resolutions get passed so that the opportunity is there um uh to to make um lower trips to lower the cost of trips to make sure the availability is there to work with the transit uh uh passengers.

More importantly to literally have true tourism and having those that are near to us in the Pacific region and close to us in the blue continent our brothers and sisters in the Pacific islands from CNMI, Palau, FSM, RMI and and other Pacific re uh uh areas in this region to come and visit our island they would love to do it but the pricing is just so exorbitant. But I want to ask a question from another perspective and um I don't know if you guys know that I did author the bill to conduct a study through the transshipment task force and I wanted to ask um uh the airport how will a cabotage waiver help with making Guam trans ship making Guam a transshipment Hub? And do you think it will be a positive impact?

Either, either one of you three.

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Of course it's going to be positive impact of that uh when is done because now we're able to to offer um airlines or our our foreign air carriers to move uh things back and forth.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: thank you uh Frank do you have anything to add?

Frank Santos: Yeah I'll just add to that Vice Speaker. Transshipment under cabotage what that really means is transshipment could be passengers cargo moving in or even um ocean freight going onto Air Cargo but the cabotage would then allow us even foreign carriers from flying directly from Guam picking up pre-inspected and going to any location in the U.S., especially those locations that have uh train or trucking uh infrastructure. That way it can get to products from Asia and hopefully eventually from Guam can get into the supermarkets and the counters and at retail stores faster than it would go from here to a regular Port of Entry.

In other words, the port of entries like in in in California in Long Beach Oakland they're all backed up but if we go straight to those uh uh cities that have that infrastructure, the ground based infrastructure that would really would help and and vice versa.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: That's really good to hear, doc would you like to add anything?

Artemio “Ricky” Hernandez, Ph.D. - Deputy Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Sure, well the airport's been investing a lot in or we plan to invest a lot in our cargo operations. We do have a cargo facility run um by an operator and uh we don't have an adjacent uh apron, parking apron directly for that. So a lot of our cargo that we currently uh do they have to basically drive it over to the cargo facility. And so um you know through the assistance of our engineering division as well as our consultants uh we've been able to at least we're doing, finished the design for our cargo apron uh and we're looking to get some federal funds and apply for federal funds for the cargo to actually construct it.

And so that would have an cargo apron that would be adjacent to our cargo facility uh and so you know with this um could add to the possibilities of getting not only the ability to um transship uh but also to entice and maybe encourage some investment uh in airport property on the other side of the cargo apron that we have available for potential increase in cargo capacity so or or other types of cargo operations so.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: opening up the opportunity for new industries. More importantly, the other question I was going to ask was if all of this comes to play in a in a optimistic way and and we get these exemptions and these waivers to proceed here on our Island, will you guys have the capabilities but just hearing from that it sound maybe I just want to hear from all three of you will you guys have the capabilities to do uh what is coming our way if we're granted exemptions?

John “JQ” M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority: Definitely Senator that's part of our um our five-year uh plan that it's it it is part of that uh and and of course we're going to come to you uh to your body to to to once we get that and and to help us. Because, we definitely have, there's an impediment that we have for for uh for investments at the airport and that's to increase our five-year at least uh to 30 and that that will come in time.

Senator Jesse Lujan: I was just I was just going to say that that we got to speak to ourselves down in this situation because we got commend the airport over the years you've you've grown it you've prepared it to for for such but to be even better prepared um you know I I know that you guys been contacted and you guys are going out there trying to get investment, people to you know, companies to invest in the airport uh one poor millions of dollars into to the airport but they would definitely wouldn't do it with a five-year lease. They wouldn't have a return of their money right off the bat.

So we're speaking to ourselves now that they're going to have to come to us to make sure we you know because it you know the business model is not a one-size, one size fits all...

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority:
That's correct.

Senator Jesse Lujan: ...It's it's a very diff very different model and it's something that this body has to really consider. If uh we're ready, they're ready to to do this but again the big obstacle would be, would be that uh the the investment that companies they want to put in for maybe cargo spaces and things of that nature. Because they got the property but and and they have the people that want want want to lease, but they don't have the years to be able to get a return in their in their investment.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: And as I see a lot of the stakeholders here I'm going to ask a tough one talk to me about the recent opportunity with Vietnam Air, what has happened and was cabotage a roadblock? Can you guys speak on that?

John "JQ" M. Quinata - Executive Manager, Guam International Airport Authority:
Well with Vietnam Air of course uh they they are uh consistently monitoring our progress in as far as the the five-year lease. And other air air uh uh carriers are also looking at that. Because we, they, definitely the potential for a MRO facility on Guam is there uh especially it's on U.S. soil. So when you have a MRO facility on Guam where foreign carriers can come to Guam and get their certification as far as uh uh their aircraft on us soil that that is a positive uh impact to our Island. The biggest thing is is that uh a five-year lease is a no-go from the beginning and once we get uh a 30-year uh or more uh they're definitely going to flock in.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: Well, we we just want to reiterate the fact as colleagues here. We do have a uh legislation that will afford that opportunity uh with Senator Roy Quinata's bill, if I'm not mistaken, on the lifting of the five-year uh uh time. I'm hoping that that will see some credence. I know it's been a in for a while but we do have some standing rules uh that that may permit us to get that bill to be heard uh before the term is up.

So but with that being said um I I just want to make sure we still have a lot of folks here in the public hearing room if anyone wants to say anything at this time the floor is open and if not... I want to thank my colleague Senator Jessie Lujan for being here to to listen to both bills and since we've exhausted the sign-in sheet just as house rules um thank you for being here to join us this evening uh to um support resolutions number 441-37 and 447-37.

I want to thank uh Mr. Toh for presenting your testimony uh for Delegate Moylan, Senator, thank you to all the panel members that were here today. Thank you so very much and

since there is no one else to testify uh I want to just do my closing then I'll yield to Senator Lujan.

All those um from the listening audience who would like to um submit written testimony they can do so by sending it into the Guam legislature 411 134 West solid I have you ha Guam 96910 office of Vice speaker Tina Muna Barnes or they can drop it your written testimony here to the qu Guam Congress building at uh the office of Vice speaker Tina Muna Barnes um Senator Jesse before I do the final closing.

Senator Jesse Lujan: Yeah thank you very much, si Yu'os ma'ase' again for thank you very much to everyone that came out uh to support this uh the these two resolutions and um Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes for conducting a joint uh public hearing tonight and discussing of course both resolutions.

Again as I mentioned earlier uh the opening of of the public hearing that uh continue to receive testimonies um for within 10 working business days from today and you can email. I mean, Vice Speaker had given you the address, but you can also email my office at senatorlujan@Guamlegislature.org, okay and that's senatorlujan@guamlegislature.org or you can you can mail or hand deliver to my office uh Senator Jesse A. Lujan at 259 Aartyr Street Suite 101A the Calvo Arriola Building, Hagåtña, Guam, 96910.

And also again a uh record of this hearing uh verbatim transcript would be provided as well the findings by the committee and all of that will be posted in legislative website. So again for the folks the airlines that um are wanting to submit testimony uh written testimony you can download this. It will be in the legislative um YouTube um Channel and you can listen again to to the testimonies presented tonight uh you want reference to uh again to your written testimony that you uh receive and you could either send it to my office or send um Vice Speaker Tina Barnes's office.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes: My email address is senatormunabarnes@legislature.org or you may hand deliver it to 163 Chalan Santo Papa Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña, Guam 96910 or at my personal office at uh 4th floor Suite # 411 the Bank of Hawaii building 134 West Soledad Avenue Hagåtña Guam 96910.

With that being said it is approximately 7:23 p.m. this meeting is now adjourned and I extend an un dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'ase' to all of you here tonight for staying here with us at 7:20 uh this evening 7:23 and and and for listening. God bless each and every one of you si yu'os un binidisi, have a blessed weekend thank you.

Senator Jesse Lujan: thank you thank you.

The public hearing was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution No. 441-37 received favorable testimony.

Congressman James C. Moylan expresses strong support for Guam Resolution No. 441-37 (LS), endorsing H.R. 8786, the Pacific Island Flight Alternatives Act. The bill aims to reduce airfare costs to and from Guam by allowing foreign carriers from Japan, South Korea, or the Philippines to operate routes between Guam and U.S. ports. Moylan highlights the need for competition to lower travel costs, which currently burden local consumers due to market concentration. He urges the Guam Legislature to pass the resolution, emphasizing the economic benefits for Guam and the broader Pacific region.

Lauren Cabrera, President of Guam Animals in Need and founder of Saipan Humane Society, expresses strong support for Resolution No. 441-37 (LS), which seeks to provide a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing on Guam or the CNMI. She highlights the negative impact of United Airlines' discontinued pet shipping program, resulting in significant challenges for pet owners and animal welfare on the islands. Cabrera urges the acceptance of foreign carriers to alleviate the burden on residents, improve connectivity, and ensure better lives for animals, advocating for a more connected and compassionate future for the region.

John M. Quinata, Executive Manager of the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, supports Resolution No. 441-37 (LS), which aims to attract more air service to Guam, increase competition, and potentially reduce airfares. He highlights the significant revenue losses at Guam's airport due to the pandemic and Typhoon Mawar, emphasizing the importance of increased air traffic for financial recovery and tourism growth. Quinata notes that these resolutions could foster a competitive environment, leading to more flights, lower costs, and better connectivity for residents and visitors, thereby benefiting the island's economy and airport operations.

Judy Harvilla, a volunteer at Guam Animals in Need (GAIN), supports Resolution No. 441-37 (LS), sharing her experience of adopting dogs from the shelter. She recalls falling in love with a dog named Leila, whom she couldn't initially bring home due to transportation challenges. Leila eventually joined her in the mainland through the Boonie Flight Project, a charity that arranges flights for dogs. Judy emphasizes the difficulties and expenses involved in relocating pets from Guam and hopes the resolutions pass to make it easier for more shelter dogs to find homes.

Allison Hadley, Director of the GAIN animal shelter for nine years, supports Resolution No. 441-37 (LS), which address the challenge of transporting pets from Guam. She highlights the progress in animal welfare on the island but emphasizes the severe impact of United Airlines eliminating their PetSafe program, leaving military and local families with limited or no options to transport pets. This has increased pet

relinquishments and abandonment, burdening the shelter. Hadley urges the removal of cabotage restrictions to allow more families to keep their pets and ease the shelter's workload, benefiting both the community and the animals.

Brenda Smith, a veterinarian at Guam Animals in Need, supports Resolution No. 441-37(LS) to provide a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers. She highlights the difficulty Guam residents face in transporting pets off-island due to high costs, leading to more abandoned animals and increased shelter burdens. Additionally, shipping challenges for medications and vaccines further strain resources. Smith also mentions the personal impact of high flight costs on family visits. She urges the acceptance of the cabotage exemption to improve conditions for both residents and animals on Guam.

During questioning, Senator Jesse Lujan and Frank Santos discuss Guam's efforts to secure an air cabotage exemption to improve air travel options. They recount past efforts to expand the airport's infrastructure, including extending the runway to support non-stop flights to the U.S. mainland. Despite the infrastructure being in place, they note that only one airline offers such flights. They also discuss the need for legislative changes to allow foreign airlines to fly beyond Guam to other U.S. destinations, arguing that such an exemption would not harm U.S. carriers and would benefit Guam's remote location.

Senator Jesse Lujan highlights that it is often cheaper to fly from Guam to Manila and stay there for a few days than to fly from Guam to Saipan, underscoring the issue of high airfare costs. Airport executives Frank Santos, John "JQ" Quinata, and Ricky Hernandez explain that while Guam's airport has the infrastructure and capacity for expanded services, restrictive U.S. policies like cabotage limit competition, keeping prices high. Hernandez adds that the airport is aggressively working to increase air service through partnerships and incentives but emphasizes that a cabotage exemption would be a crucial tool to attract more airlines, increase competition, lower prices, and boost Guam's economy.

In this conversation, Senator Jesse Lujan emphasizes the importance of transit passengers to Guam's economy, noting that even short layovers can generate significant revenue for the airport through spending on food, concessions, and other services. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Deputy Executive Manager of the Guam International Airport Authority, estimates that the airport currently sees between 100,000 and 200,000 transit passengers annually, which serves as a valuable revenue source. John "JQ" Quinata, the airport's Executive Manager, adds that during the COVID-19 pandemic, when passenger traffic was low, cargo flights through Guam increased significantly, highlighting the airport's strategic importance for both passenger and cargo transit.

Senator Jesse Lujan inquires about the progress of implementing pre-clearance at Guam's airport. John "JQ" Quinata, the Executive Manager of the Guam International Airport Authority, responds that they are very close to achieving pre-clearance for both cargo and passengers. This would allow flights departing from Guam to be treated as domestic flights.

The key remaining step is ensuring that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) can pre-clear passengers and their luggage when transiting from a foreign country through Guam.

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes discusses the emotional impact on families who must give up pets due to high travel costs and limited opportunities. She emphasizes the importance of lowering travel costs and improving tourism, especially for visitors from nearby Pacific regions. She then asks how a cabotage waiver could help Guam become a transshipment hub.

John "JQ" Quinata, Executive Manager of Guam International Airport Authority, asserts that a cabotage waiver would positively impact Guam by allowing foreign air carriers to move goods more freely. Frank Santos adds that the waiver would facilitate faster transshipment of passengers, cargo, and ocean freight, especially to U.S. locations with strong ground-based infrastructure, bypassing congested ports. Artemio "Ricky" Hernandez, Deputy Executive Manager, mentions ongoing investments in cargo operations, including plans to build a cargo apron adjacent to their facility, which could attract more investment and enhance cargo capacity.

Vice Speaker asked about the Guam International Airport's capacity to handle the potential changes should Guam and the CNMI receive cabotage exemptions. John "JQ" M. Quinata assured that increasing the airport's capabilities especially through a cabotage exemption is part of their five-year plan, but highlighted challenges related to investment timelines and the need for longer leases to attract significant investments. Senator Jesse Lujan emphasized that the business model for the airport requires a more flexible approach to lease terms to attract investment. Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes inquired about Vietnam Air's interest and whether cabotage laws were a barrier. Quinata noted that a longer lease term, such as 30 years, would be crucial for attracting international carriers and facilities, like an MRO facility. There is ongoing legislation aimed at addressing the five-year lease limitation to facilitate these opportunities.

The author reports on **Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)** - Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes / Jesse A. Lujan / Christopher M. Dueñas / Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas / Joe S. San Agustin

“RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R. 8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS” with the recommendation **to adopt.**

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No.441-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Jesse A. Lujan
Christopher M. Duenas
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Joe S. San Agustin

**RELATIVE TO EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF H.R.
8786, INTRODUCED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH SEEKS TO PROVIDE
FOR A CABOTAGE EXEMPTION FOR FOREIGN AIR
CARRIERS LANDING IN GUAM OR THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS.**

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

WHEREAS, Guam, being a geographically distant territory from the
Continental United States, relies heavily on air travel to the U.S. for the importation
of goods and commodities, healthcare needs, as well as for business, education, and
other personal reasons; and

WHEREAS, the restrictive nature of the cabotage laws places a heavy
economic burden on the people of Guam and businesses in the region. The current
aviation cabotage policy, as defined by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958 prohibits
foreign airlines from transporting passengers or cargo between two points within the
United States, including its territories such as Guam; and

1 **WHEREAS**, these policies have far reaching consequences on the people of
2 Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands and as the regional economic hub, these
3 consequences are further felt in other islands across Micronesia; and

4 **WHEREAS**, since the departure of Delta Air Lines in 2018, the residents of
5 Guam for the first time in many decades have been served by a single American-
6 based airline for passenger air travel. Since then, airfare tickets have increased as
7 well as the cost of goods. Residents and stakeholders continue to raise concerns on
8 fair competition in the airline industry; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have been
10 left to shoulder rising airfare tickets and cost of goods, exacerbating quality of life
11 issues in comparison to Americans living in continental United States. Often travel
12 between our two islands can be too cost prohibitive, slowing down economic
13 collaboration in this region. Moreover, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands
14 tourism industries are unable to compete with similar destinations in the region due
15 to the cost to get to our islands; and

16 **WHEREAS**, additionally, having a limited number of airlines in Guam poses
17 safety and security concerns pressuring emergency responsiveness during times of
18 crisis, including typhoons and especially during heightened geopolitical tensions in
19 the region; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the island economies in Micronesia are especially vulnerable to
21 rising airfare and air freight costs. Leaders from the island nations in Micronesia
22 have stated their concerns with being served by one passenger airliner. This issue
23 continues to be a top priority among policymakers in the region. Without meaningful
24 economic stimulation, island nations are more susceptible to dollar diplomacy from
25 other adversarial nations to provide for the basic needs of their island nations; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a cabotage exemption on passenger and freight travel can
2 alleviate quality of life issues affecting the people living in Guam and the Northern
3 Mariana Islands and stimulate the region’s stagnant economy; and

4 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 8786, introduced by James C. Moylan, Guam’s Delegate
5 in Congress, is crucial to address the increasing challenges faced by Guam and the
6 Northern Mariana Islands due to existing cabotage laws; and

7 **WHEREAS**, a cabotage exemption for Guam and the Northern Mariana
8 Islands through H.R. 8786 would foster economic development through competitive
9 airfare pricing and facilitate more efficient and affordable access to goods and
10 services. Moreover, the exemption can further aid in addressing supply chain issues
11 in the nation through transshipment opportunities in Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, with increasing pressures from adversarial nations in the region,
13 the exemption aides in the security and the economic resiliency and sustainability
14 across Micronesia; now, therefore be it,

15 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
16 on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* express its support of H.R. 8786, introduced in
17 the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to provide for a cabotage
18 exemption for foreign air carriers landing in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.;
19 and be it further

20 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
21 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
22 Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America; to the
23 Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam's Delegate to the United States Congress; to the
24 Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation
25 & Infrastructure; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
26 *Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF MONTH.

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary