

# I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

## 2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

### VOTING RECORD

Resolution No. 207-37 (COR) As amended by the Author; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building January 26, 2024					
NAME	Aye	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Senator Chris Barnett	✓					
Senator Frank Blas, Jr.	✓					
Senator Joanne Brown	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator Thomas J. Fisher	✓					
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓					
Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓					
Senator Roy A. B. Quinata	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin	✓					
Senator Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas	✓					
Senator Amanda L. Shelton	✓					
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje	✓					

**TOTAL**

**15**

**0**

**Not  
Voting/  
Abstained**

**Out  
During  
Roll Call**

**0**

**Absent**

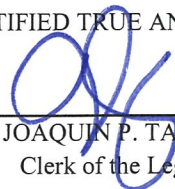
**0**

**Excused**

**Aye**

**Nay**

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



JOAQUIN P. TAITAGUE  
Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

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

**Resolution No. 207-37 (COR)**

As amended by the Author;  
and further amended on the Floor.

\*

Introduced by:

William A. Parkinson  
Frank Blas, Jr.

**Relative to recognizing coral reefs as essential infrastructure  
for the protection of the coasts of Guam and its inherent  
relationship in the conservation of beaches and other  
elements of nature.**

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

3           **WHEREAS**, coral reefs are vital and irreplaceable ecosystems that provide  
4 numerous ecological, economic, and social benefits to the island of Guam, its residents,  
5 and visitors; and

6           **WHEREAS**, Guam's coral reefs offer critical habitat for marine biodiversity,  
7 supporting a wide array of fish, invertebrates, and other species that contribute to the  
8 overall health of our oceans and food security; and

9           **WHEREAS**, coral reefs serve as natural protective barriers that help mitigate the  
10 impacts of storm surges and rising sea levels, thereby safeguarding our coastal  
11 communities from the devastating effects of climate change and extreme weather  
12 events; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the coral reef ecosystem plays a pivotal role in Guam’s tourism  
2 industry, drawing visitors from around the world who come to witness its breathtaking  
3 beauty and engage in activities such as snorkeling, diving, and eco-tourism; and

4           **WHEREAS**, coral reefs also contribute significantly to the island’s economy,  
5 providing livelihoods for local fishermen, tour operators, and businesses that rely on the  
6 tourism and seafood industries; and

7           **WHEREAS**, Guam’s cultural identity is closely tied to the ocean and its  
8 resources, with Indigenous *Chamorro* practices, traditions, and knowledge deeply  
9 rooted in the ocean’s bounty and the symbiotic relationship between people and the sea;  
10 and

11           **WHEREAS**, the sustainable practices and traditional knowledge of indigenous  
12 communities in managing marine resources have historically contributed to the health  
13 and biodiversity of coral reefs, and these reefs are not only vital for the ecological  
14 balance of marine environments, but also serve as essential infrastructure which is  
15 integral to the cultural and economic well-being of these communities; and

16           **WHEREAS**, nothing in this Resolution nor in the any future application for  
17 federal funds shall infringe upon the existing rights of indigenous fishermen as  
18 recognized by the Government of Guam and Guam law; and

19           **WHEREAS**, coral reefs play a critical role in carbon sequestration and help to  
20 mitigate the impacts of climate change by absorbing and storing substantial amounts of  
21 carbon dioxide, thus aiding in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and

22           **WHEREAS**, Guam is committed to conserving and preserving its natural  
23 environment for future generations, and recognizing coral reefs as essential  
24 infrastructure will bolster these efforts; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the Government of Guam does not have the necessary funds for  
26 optimal protection of its coral reef systems; and

1           **WHEREAS**, there is access to certain federal programs for the protection and  
2 conservation of these reefs, but it has not been possible to access them since Guam’s  
3 coral reefs are not considered essential infrastructure; now therefore, be it

4           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
5 on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, officially recognize coral  
6 reefs as essential infrastructure for the island in the protection of the coasts of Guam  
7 and its inherent relationship in the conservation of beaches and other elements of nature;  
8 and acknowledge their irreplaceable role in the ecological, economic, and cultural  
9 aspects of our community; and be it further

10          **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
11 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Director of  
12 the Guam Department of Agriculture; the Director of the Guam Bureau of Statistics and  
13 Plans; the Administrator of the Guam Coastal Management Program; the Director of  
14 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the Secretary of the Department  
15 of Land and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;  
16 the Honorable Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*; and to the Honorable  
17 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE      DAY OF MONTH 2024.**

---

**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

---

**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary