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

Resolution No. 143-36 (LS)
As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Jose "Pedo" Terlaje
Telo T. Taitague
Joanne Brown
Sabina Flores Perez
Telena Cruz Nelson
Joe S. San Agustin
James C. Moylan
V. Anthony Ada
Christopher M. Dueñas
Frank Blas Jr.
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Clynton E. Ridgell
Amanda L. Shelton
Mary Camacho Torres

Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturán Guåhan* and advocating for the passage of H.R. 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to establish in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

1   **BE IT RESOLVED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN***

2   *GUÅHAN*:

3   **WHEREAS,** the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers business, death,

4   education, employment, financial, health, housing, legal advocacy and assistance,

1   memorial, recreation, state government services, tax, and territorial government

2   services benefits to all United States military veterans; and

3   **WHEREAS,** according to the 2010 Island Area Census conducted by the U.S.

4   Census Bureau, Guam has the highest percentage of veterans at 7.9 percent among the

5   U.S. territories, and should have access to the benefits offered by the U.S. Department

6   of Veterans Affairs; and

7   **WHEREAS,** Guam veterans in the past and in the present have vocalized their

8   concern over the inadequate care they have received from the U.S. Department of

9   Veterans Affairs, stating that they have experienced medical claims never being

10   processed, the island having no specialized treatment facilities, and under-staffing at

11   the VA Guam Community Based Outpatient Clinic, the island's only veteran outpatient

12   health care site; and

13   **WHEREAS,** to resolve the benefit disparities, the Honorable Gregorio Kilili

14   Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate, introduced H.R. 3730 in the U.S. House of

15   Representatives with ten (10) co-sponsors, including the Honorable Michael F.Q. San

16   Nicolas, Guam Delegate; and

17   **WHEREAS,** the purpose of H.R. 3730 is to establish in the U.S. Department of

18   Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely

19   Associated States; and

20   **WHEREAS,** the Advisory Committee will be comprised of fifteen (15) voting

21   members appointed to represent covered veterans in eight (8) remote areas of the world,

22   one of them being Guam; and

23   **WHEREAS,** the duties of Guam's Advisory Committee member representative

24   will include:

1   "(1)   To advise the Secretary on matters relating to covered veterans, including

2 how the Secretary can improve the programs and services of the Department to better

3 serve such veterans.

4   (2)   To identify for the Secretary evolving issues of relevance to covered

5 veterans.

6   (3)   To propose clarifications, recommendations, and solutions to address

7 issues raised by covered veterans.

8   (4)   To provide a forum for covered veterans, veterans service organizations

9 serving covered veterans, and the Department to discuss issues and proposals for

10 changes to regulations, policies, and procedures of the Department.

11   (5)   To identify priorities for and provide advice to the Secretary on appropriate

12 strategies for consultation with veterans service organizations serving covered veterans.

13   (6)   To encourage the Secretary to work with other departments and agencies

14 of the Federal Government and Congress to ensure covered veterans are provided the

15 full benefits of their status as covered veterans.

16   (7)   To highlight contributions of covered veterans in the Armed Forces.
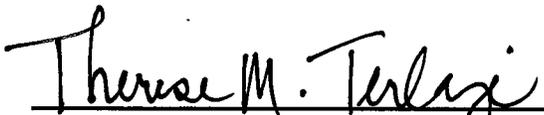
17   (8)   To conduct other duties as determined appropriate by the Secretary."; now

18 therefore, be it

19   **RESOLVED,** that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on

20 behalf of the people of Guam, express its support and advocate for the passage of H.R.

21 3730, which seeks to amend Title 38 of the United States Code to establish in the U.S.

22 Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying

23 Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes; and be it further

24   **RESOLVED,** that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the

25 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable

26 Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Mark

1 Takano, U.S. Representative from California and Chairman of the House Committee on

2 Veterans' Affairs; to the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, Delegate from the

3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San

4 Nicolas, Delegate from Guam; to the Honorable Julia Brownley, U.S. Representative

5 from California; to the Honorable Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, Delegate from

6 American Samoa; to the Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Delegate from the U.S. Virgin

7 Islands; to the Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón, Resident Commissioner of Puerto

8 Rico; to the Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, U.S. Representative from Hawai'i; to the

9 Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva, U.S. Representative from Arizona; to the Honorable Ed

10 Case, U.S. Representative from Hawai'i; to the Honorable Ruben Gallego, U.S.

11 Representative from Arizona; to the Honorable Albio Sires, U.S. Representative from

12 New Jersey; to Mr. P. Tim Aguon, Director of the Guam Veterans Affairs Office; and

13 to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan.*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 29ᵀᴴ DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021.

THERESE M. TERLAJE	**AMANDA L. SHELTON**
Speaker	**Legislative Secretary**