

**I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHOR/ COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
464-36 (LS)	Clynton E. Ridgell	Relative to requesting that the Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior, honor the Department of the Interior's responsibilities to Guam by directing the Offices of Insular Affairs and Environmental Policy and Compliance to review and assess the potential environmental impacts of the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz Live-Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field and the Hand Grenade Range at Andersen South on the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, and provide guidance to the Department of the Navy prior to range operations that ensures the protection of Guam's water resources; and, calling on the Committees on Armed Services of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to pause construction activities related to the training ranges and withhold all current and future funding of the same until environmental impacts concerning the impending threat of contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer and future threat of diminished freshwater resources in Guam are re-assessed.	10/25/22 2:03 p.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI SAIS NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2022 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 464-36 (LS)

Introduced by:

Clynton E. Ridgell 

Relative to requesting that the Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior, honor the Department of the Interior's responsibilities to Guam by directing the Offices of Insular Affairs and Environmental Policy and Compliance to review and assess the potential environmental impacts of the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz Live-Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field and the Hand Grenade Range at Andersen South on the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer, and provide guidance to the Department of the Navy prior to range operations that ensures the protection of Guam's water resources; and, calling on the Committees on Armed Services of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to pause construction activities related to the training ranges and withhold all current and future funding of the same until environmental impacts concerning the impending threat of contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer and future threat of diminished freshwater resources in Guam are re-assessed.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, in August 2015, the U.S. Department of the Navy issued its
4 Record of Decision based on the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation Final
5 Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (2012 Roadmap Adjustments) (SEIS),
6 pursuant to which the U.S. Department of Defense proposed to relocate

1 approximately eight thousand six hundred (8,600) U.S. Marines from Okinawa to
2 Guam, and as part of that action, to construct and operate a series of live-fire training
3 ranges in Guam and CNMI. The massive Live-Fire Training Range Complex
4 (LFTRC) and Hand Grenade Range are currently under construction and sit on top
5 of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA) – a critical resource that provides
6 Guam residents with eighty-five percent (85%) of the island’s fresh drinking water;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz LFTRC is located at
9 Northwest Field Andersen Air Force Base, and consists of five (5) separate firing
10 ranges, including a Known Distance (KD) rifle range, KD pistol range, Modified
11 Record of Fire Range (MRFR), nonstandard small arms range, Multipurpose
12 Machine Gun (MPMG) range, and a stand-alone Hand Grenade Range is located at
13 Andersen South. Approximately one hundred eighty-seven acres (187) of pristine
14 limestone forest have been cleared in support of the LFTRC; construction of the KD
15 rifle range project is anticipated to be complete in 2022 and operational sometime
16 between 2023-2024, and construction of the Multi-Purpose Machine Gun range is
17 ongoing with expected completion in 2024; and

18 **WHEREAS**, according to the SEIS, up to 6.7 million lead bullets will be fired
19 and four hundred twenty-one (421) hand grenades will be thrown over the aquifer
20 each year, potentially threatening the community’s primary water source as well as
21 surrounding ocean areas; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the SEIS provides that range operations have the potential to
23 leach munitions constituents into groundwater, such as lead, antimony, copper, and
24 zinc. Munitions constituents are “any materials originating from unexploded
25 ordnance, discarded military munitions, or other military munitions, including
26 explosive and nonexplosive materials, and emission, degradation, or breakdown
27 elements of such ordnance or munitions.” 10 U.S.C. § 2710(e)(3). The SEIS further

1 discloses, that munitions constituents specific to the explosives used at the Hand
2 Grenade Range include trinitrotoluene (TNT), cyclotetramethylene tetranitramine
3 (High Melting Explosive, HMX), hexahydrotrinitrotriazine (Royal Demolition
4 Explosive, RDX), and perchlorate; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in addition to harmful munitions constituents, the SEIS states
6 that the firing ranges would potentially increase the amount of petroleum, oil, and
7 lubricants (POLs), hazardous waste, herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers being
8 stored, transported, and utilized on the proposed facilities; and

9 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslatura* finds it concerning that the SEIS lacks a thorough
10 discussion of range munitions constituents and omits available data regarding the
11 potential for these chemical agents to remain in soils and leach into groundwater. In
12 January 2012, the United States Environmental Protection Agency published the
13 “EPA Federal Facilities Forum Issue Paper: Site Characterization for Munitions
14 Constituents” (EPA 2012 Paper), which compiles studies of military installations in
15 the U.S and Canada and identifies a wide range of chemical agents left on surface
16 soils surrounding firing ranges. The EPA 2012 Paper cites data showing that
17 chemical components of explosives and propellants tend to be mobilized by heavy
18 rainfall and may threaten groundwater supplies. This is of particular concern in
19 Guam, as the karst limestone topography of the NGLA is especially porous,
20 rendering the aquifer vulnerable to contamination; and

21 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslatura* finds that the significance of the NGLA as Guam’s
22 Sole Source Aquifer, the increased annual withdrawal of groundwater amounting to
23 1.7 million gallons each day as a result of the Guam and CNMI Military Relocation,
24 and threats induced by climate change are critical factors that must be considered to
25 determine the true and long-term impacts of the training ranges on Guam’s water
26 resources; and

1 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslatura* recognizes our obligation to protect and preserve
2 the natural and cultural heritage of the *CHamoru* people, that this island and its
3 resources are an inheritance from our ancestors, for our present and future
4 generations, and must be safeguarded; and

5 **WHEREAS**, island nations all across the Pacific region are rising to fulfill
6 that obligation and ensure community resilience and survival through climate
7 change. Our island community joins our voices with our region and with those who
8 have dedicated their lives to protecting this inheritance - our lands and waters; and

9 **WHEREAS**, there is insufficient scientific data available to Guam residents
10 to fully assess potentially irreversible impacts of the construction and operation of
11 the firing ranges on the NGLA, and it is critical that the community is given
12 reasonable time to review relevant and sound information before the ranges become
13 operational; now therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
15 on behalf of the people of Guam, call on Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland to
16 honor the Department of the Interior's responsibilities to Guam and its residents by
17 directing the Offices of Insular Affairs and Environmental Policy and Compliance
18 to review and assess the potential environmental impacts of the U.S. Marine Corps
19 Base Camp Blaz Live-Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field and the
20 Hand Grenade Range at Andersen South on the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer and
21 provide guidance to the Department of the Navy prior to range operations that
22 ensures the protection of Guam's water resources; and be it further,

23 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
24 on behalf of the people of Guam, call on the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed
25 Services and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Armed Services to
26 pause construction activities related to the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz Live-
27 Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field Andersen Air Force Base and the

1 Hand Grenade Range at Andersen South and withhold all current and future funding
2 of the ranges or any associated federal action until environmental impacts
3 concerning the impending threat of contamination of the Northern Guam Lens
4 Aquifer and future threat of diminished freshwater resources in Guam are re-
5 assessed; and be it further

6 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
7 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
8 Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America; the
9 Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States of America; to the
10 Honorable Deb Haaland, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to the
11 Honorable Keone Nakoa, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, U.S.
12 Department of Interior; to Stephen G. Tryon, Director, Office of Environmental
13 Policy and Compliance, U.S. Department of the Interior; to the Honorable Jack
14 Reed, Chairperson, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. Senate; to the Honorable
15 Adam Smith, Chairperson, Committee on Armed Services, U.S. House of
16 Representatives; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
17 *Guåhan*.

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

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary