

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
207-37 (COR) As amended by the Author; and further amended on the Floor	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.	9/26/23 9:38 a.m.			10/16/23	Author	11/6/23 2:00 p.m.	1/11/24 9:14 a.m. As amended by the Author	



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I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Thirty-Seventh Guam Legislature

January 30, 2024

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'håga
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

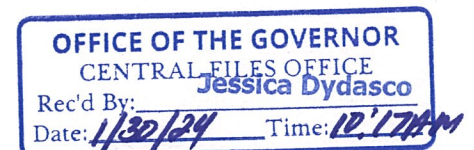
Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 207-37 (COR)**, “**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,**” which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* on January 26, 2024.

Sincerely,

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)



I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN
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.
Chris Barnett
Joanne Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Jesse A. Lujan
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Sabina Flores Perez
Roy A. B. Quinata
Joe S. San Agustin
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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


21 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
22 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Director of
23 the Guam Department of Agriculture; the Director of the Guam Bureau of Statistics and
24 Plans; the Administrator of the Guam Coastal Management Program; the Director of

1 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); the Secretary of the Department
2 of Land and Natural Resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
3 the Honorable Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*; and to the Honorable
4 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY 2024.



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary