

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

Resolution No. 260-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan 

Relative to supporting Guam's efforts in Congress with H.RES. 837, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to reaffirm the ties between the United States and the Philippines, and to further support the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense Commitment.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the United States has a longstanding and significant history of
4 diplomatic relations with the Philippines, dating back to July 4, 1946, resulting in
5 strengthened and positive bilateral bonds; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Guam also has a significant relationship with the Philippines dating
7 back to the 1600s. Through shared cultural, religious, and economic ties, Guam and the
8 Philippines are very much connected; and

9 **WHEREAS**, there are over 4,000,000 United States citizens of Philippine
10 ancestry currently living in the United States. And Guam residents of Filipino descent
11 make up nearly thirty (30%) percent of the island's total population, with Filipinos
12 being a vital and integral part of Guam's cultural and economic fabric. Filipino
13 Americans contribute greatly and are part of almost every facet of daily life on Guam;
14 and

1 **WHEREAS**, H.RES. 837 reaffirms the United States’ unwavering commitment
2 to support the Philippines and Guam agrees with such unwavering support. The
3 relationship between Guam and the Philippines perfectly illustrates mutually beneficial
4 partnerships between neighboring regions. Through labor migration, cultural exchange,
5 and tourism, both Guam and the Philippines reap the rewards of friendship and the
6 advantages of economic prosperity; and

7 **WHEREAS**, developments that affect the security of the Philippines and
8 regional stability significantly impact Guam due to geographical proximity and
9 interconnected security concerns. Since the Philippines and Guam share common
10 maritime borders, any volatility, such as political unrest, natural disasters, or security
11 threats involving the Philippines could have direct repercussions for Guam; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the People’s Republic of China has been increasingly encroaching
13 upon the sovereignty of the Philippines through the use of its Coast Guard and Merchant
14 Marine, particularly in the Scarborough Shoal; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Chinese Communist Party has been propagating territorial
16 claims based on an arbitrary “ten-dash line,” despite a United Nations Convention on
17 the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal’s ruling that China’s nine-dashed line has “no legal
18 basis”; and

19 **WHEREAS**, upon the illicit seizure of Mischief Reef in 1994, the People’s
20 Republic of China has enhanced the operational capabilities of the People’s Liberation
21 Army and reinforced their disputed claims in the South China Sea with the construction
22 of 20 artificial islands; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the actions of the People’s Republic of China such as using water
24 cannons against Philippine Coast Guard vessels and military-grade lasers to disable its
25 crew are efforts to disrupt the regular resupply of the BRP Sierra Madre, a Philippine
26 Navy Transport Ship, stationed in the Second Thomas Shoal, and ultimately establish
27 broad territorial rights in the region; and

28 **WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2023, the Biden Administration revealed its intentions
29 to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, thereby strengthening

1 interoperability and collaboration between the United States and the Philippines to
2 address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on August 5, 2023, the United States Department of State
4 reaffirmed its commitment that an armed attack on Philippine public vessels, aircraft,
5 and armed forces, including those of its Coast Guard in the South China Sea, would
6 trigger U.S. mutual defense obligations outlined in Article IV of the 1951 U.S.-
7 Philippines Mutual Defense Treaty; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on October 22, 2023, a Philippine Coast Guard cutter escorting
9 supplies to the Second Thomas Shoal encountered an aggressive collision perpetrated
10 by the Chinese Coast Guard within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone; and

11 **WHEREAS**, China's assertiveness in the region, particularly through the
12 construction of artificial islands, military installations and military actions in disputed
13 areas, has been a growing cause for concern among neighboring countries and regions.
14 While the island is not directly involved in the territorial disputes in the South China
15 Sea, Guam has significant interest in the stability and security there. Developments
16 involving U.S. military presence, regional security concerns, strategic importance, and
17 alliance commitments in the Indo-Pacific region have broader geopolitical implications
18 for the United States and its allies, with rippling effects extending to the people of
19 Guam; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature understands that maintaining stability and
21 security in the Philippines is central to safeguarding the well-being and strategic
22 interests of Guam and reinforcing the interconnected nature of regional security in the
23 Pacific, and subsequently supports appropriate responses from the United States to the
24 recent display of China's increasing aggression in the region; now therefore, be it

25 **RESOLVED**, that the Government of Guam Affirms the United States' steadfast
26 commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack
27 against Philippine assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is carried out
28 in the South China Sea; Urges the United States and the Philippines to initiate joint
29 patrols in the South China Sea, reinforcing their shared commitment to stability and

1 security in the region; Objects to the People’s Republic of China’s unfounded and
2 illegitimate sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, emphasizing the importance of
3 international law and peaceful dispute resolution; and Welcomes the swift
4 implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure that both
5 the United States and the Philippines honor their commitments to the Philippine people
6 and work together to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for the benefit of all nations;
7 and be it further

8 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
9 on behalf of the people of Guam, support Guam’s efforts in Congress with H.RES. 837,
10 introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to reaffirm the
11 ties between the United States and the Philippines, and to further support the U.S.-
12 Philippines Mutual Defense Commitment; and be it further

13 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
14 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
15 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D.Harris,
16 Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense;
17 the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, to the
18 Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam’s Delegate to Congress; and to the Honorable
19 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA
LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY OF 2023.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary