

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN

2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

VOTING RECORD

Resolution No. 260-37 (LS) As amended by the Author; and further amended on the Floor.	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building April 26, 2024					
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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

0

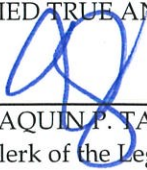
Absent

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. 260-37 (LS)

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

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Introduced by:

Jesse A. Lujan
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne M. Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Tina Rose Muña Barnes
William A. Parkinson
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 supporting Guam's efforts in the U.S. Congress for the passage of 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 supporting 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

1 **WHEREAS**, Guam also has a significant relationship with the Philippines dating
2 back to the 1600s; and through shared cultural, religious, and economic ties, Guam and
3 the Philippines are very much connected; and

4 **WHEREAS**, there are over four million (4,000,000) United States citizens of
5 Philippine ancestry currently living in the United States, and Guam residents of Filipino
6 descent make up nearly thirty percent (30%) of the island’s total population, with
7 Filipinos being a vital and integral part of Guam’s cultural and economic fabric; and
8 Filipino-Americans contribute greatly and are part of almost every facet of daily life on
9 Guam; and

10 **WHEREAS**, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.RES. 837
11 reaffirms the United States’ unwavering commitment to support the Philippines, and
12 Guam agrees with such unwavering support. The relationship between Guam and the
13 Philippines perfectly illustrates mutually beneficial partnerships between neighboring
14 regions. Through labor migration, cultural exchange, and tourism, both Guam and the
15 Philippines reap the rewards of friendship and the advantages of economic prosperity;
16 and

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

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

25 **WHEREAS**, the Chinese Communist Party has been propagating territorial
26 claims based on an arbitrary “ten-dash line,” despite a United Nations Convention on

1 the Law of the Sea arbitral tribunal’s ruling that China’s nine-dashed line has “no legal
2 basis”; and

3 **WHEREAS**, upon the illicit seizure of Mischief Reef in 1994, the People’s
4 Republic of China has enhanced the operational capabilities of the People’s Liberation
5 Army and reinforced their disputed claims in the South China Sea with the construction
6 of twenty (20) artificial islands; and

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

12 **WHEREAS**, on April 3, 2023, the Biden Administration revealed its intentions
13 to expand the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement, thereby strengthening
14 interoperability and collaboration between the United States and the Philippines to
15 address shared challenges in the Indo-Pacific region; and

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

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

24 **WHEREAS**, China’s assertiveness in the region, particularly through the
25 construction of artificial islands, military installations, and military actions in disputed
26 areas, has been a growing cause for concern among neighboring countries and regions.

1 While the island is not directly involved in the territorial disputes in the South China
2 Sea, Guam has significant interest in the stability and security there. Developments
3 involving U.S. military presence, regional security concerns, strategic importance, and
4 alliance commitments in the Indo-Pacific region have broader geopolitical implications
5 for the United States and its allies, with rippling effects extending to the people of
6 Guam; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature understands that maintaining stability and
8 security in the Philippines is central to safeguarding the well-being and strategic
9 interests of Guam and reinforcing the interconnected nature of regional security in the
10 Pacific, and subsequently supports appropriate responses from the United States to the
11 recent display of China’s increasing aggression in the region; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the government of Guam affirms the United States’ steadfast
13 commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack
14 against Philippine assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is carried out
15 in the South China Sea; urges the United States and the Philippines to initiate joint
16 patrols in the South China Sea, reinforcing their shared commitment to stability and
17 security in the region; objects to the People’s Republic of China’s unfounded and
18 illegitimate sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, emphasizing the importance of
19 international law and peaceful dispute resolution; and welcomes the swift
20 implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement to ensure that both
21 the United States and the Philippines honor their commitments to the Philippine people
22 and work together to foster a free and open Indo-Pacific for the benefit of all nations;
23 now therefore, be it

24 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 37th Guam
25 Legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, support Guam’s efforts in
26 the U.S. Congress for the passage of H.RES. 837, introduced in the United States House

1 of Representatives, which seeks to reaffirm the ties between the United States and the
2 Philippines, and does further support the U.S.-Philippines Mutual Defense
3 Commitment; and be it further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
5 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
6 Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris,
7 Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Lloyd Austin, U.S. Secretary of
8 Defense; the Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman of the U.S. House Armed Services
9 Committee; to the Honorable Martin Romualdez, Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives of the Philippines; to the Honorable Gilberto Teodoro, Secretary of the
11 Philippines Department of National Defense; to the Honorable Juan Miguel Zubiri,
12 Senate President of the Philippines; to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam Delegate
13 to the U.S. Congress; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan*
14 *Guåhan*.

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

THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary