

**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
441-37 (LS) As amended by the Author.	Tina Rose Muña Barnes Jesse A. Lujan Christopher M. Dueñas Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas Joe S. San Agustin Roy A. B. Quinata Chris Barnett Frank Blas, Jr. Joanne M. Brown Thomas J. Fisher William A. Parkinson Sabina Flores Perez Amanda L. Shelton Telo T. Taitague Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to expressing support for the passage of H.R. 8786, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to provide for a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.	7/1/24 1:55 p.m.		10/7/24	7/2/24	Author	8/2/24 5:30 p.m.	8/21/24 2:30 p.m.	

I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2024 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 441-37 (LS)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Jesse A. Lujan
Christopher M. Dueñas
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Joe S. San Agustin
Roy A. B. Quinata
Chris Barnett
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Joanne M. Brown
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Amanda L. Shelton
Telo T. Taitague
Therese M. Terlaje

Relative to expressing support for the passage of H.R. 8786, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which seeks to provide for a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing in Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

3 **WHEREAS, Guam, being a geographically distant territory from the Continental**
4 **United States, relies heavily on air travel to the U.S. for the importation of goods and**
5 **commodities, healthcare needs, as well as for business, education, and other personal**
6 **reasons; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, the restrictive nature of the cabotage laws places a heavy economic
2 burden on the people of Guam and businesses in the region. The current aviation
3 cabotage policy, as defined by the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, prohibits foreign
4 airlines from transporting passengers or cargo between two (2) points within the United
5 States, including its territories such as Guam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, these policies have far reaching consequences on the people of
7 Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands; and as the regional economic hub, these
8 consequences are further felt in other islands across Micronesia; and

9 **WHEREAS**, since the departure of Delta Air Lines in 2018, the residents of
10 Guam for the first time in many decades have been served by a single American-based
11 airline for passenger air travel. Since then, airfare tickets have increased, as well as the
12 cost of goods, and residents and stakeholders continue to raise concerns on fair
13 competition in the airline industry; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have been
15 left to shoulder rising airfare tickets and cost of goods, exacerbating quality of life issues
16 in comparison to Americans living in the continental United States. Often travel
17 between our two (2) islands can be too cost prohibitive, slowing down economic
18 collaboration in this region. Moreover, Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands
19 tourism industries are unable to compete with similar destinations in the region due to
20 the cost to get to our islands; and

21 **WHEREAS**, additionally, having a limited number of airlines in Guam poses
22 safety and security concerns pressuring emergency responsiveness during times of
23 crisis, including typhoons, and especially during heightened geopolitical tensions in the
24 region; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the island economies in Micronesia are especially vulnerable to
26 rising airfare and air freight costs. Leaders from the island nations in Micronesia have

1 stated their concerns with being served by one (1) passenger airliner. This issue
2 continues to be a top priority among policymakers in the region. Without meaningful
3 economic stimulation, island nations are more susceptible to dollar diplomacy from
4 other adversarial nations to provide for the basic needs of their island nations; and

5 **WHEREAS**, a cabotage exemption on passenger and freight travel can alleviate
6 quality of life issues affecting the people living in Guam and the Northern Mariana
7 Islands and stimulate the region's stagnant economy; and

8 **WHEREAS**, H.R. 8786, introduced by the Honorable James C. Moylan, Guam
9 Delegate to the U.S. Congress, is crucial to addressing the increasing challenges faced
10 by Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands due to existing cabotage laws; and

11 **WHEREAS**, a cabotage exemption for Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands
12 through H.R. 8786 would foster economic development through competitive airfare
13 pricing and facilitate more efficient and affordable access to goods and services.
14 Moreover, the exemption can further aid in addressing supply chain issues in the nation
15 through transshipment opportunities in Guam; and

16 **WHEREAS**, with increasing pressures from adversarial nations in the region,
17 the exemption aids in the security and the economic resiliency and sustainability across
18 Micronesia; now therefore, be it

19 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 37th Guam
20 legislature) does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, express support for the
21 passage of H.R. 8786, introduced in the United States House of Representatives, which
22 seeks to provide for a cabotage exemption for foreign air carriers landing in Guam or
23 the Northern Mariana Islands; 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 Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America; to the Honorable James C.

- 1 Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; to the Honorable Sam Graves,
- 2 Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and to the
- 3 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2024.



THERESE M. TERLAJI
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary