









**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
122-37 (LS)	Frank Blas, Jr. Christopher M. Dueñas Jesse A. Lujan Thomas J. Fisher Telo T. Taitague Joanne Brown Dwayne T. D. San Nicolas Chris Barnett	RELATIVE TO REQUESTING <i>I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN</i> ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM TO UTILIZE MONEY GIVEN TO HER THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT OF 2021 TO FUND THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) SOUGHT IN BILL 75-37 (LS) TO ASSIST ISLAND BUSINESSES STILL STRUGGLING AS A RESULT OF LOSSES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND INFLATIONARY EVENTS, AND THE TWENTY SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$26,381,000) SOUGHT IN BILL 87-37 (LS) TO EXTEND THE PRUGRĀMAN AYUDA PARA I TAOTAO-TA ENERGY CREDIT PROGRAM FOR ANOTHER FIVE MONTHS.	5/9/23 12:47 p.m.							

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

Resolution No. 122-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Frank F. Blas Jr. 
 Christopher M. Duenas 
 Jesse A. Lujan 
 Thomas J. Fisher 
 Telo T. Taitague 
 Joanne M. Brown 
 Dwayne Smith 
 Chris Barrett 

RELATIVE TO REQUESTING *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN* ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM TO UTILIZE MONEY GIVEN TO HER THROUGH THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT OF 2021 TO FUND THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) SOUGHT IN BILL 75-37 (LS) TO ASSIST ISLAND BUSINESSES STILL STRUGGLING AS A RESULT OF LOSSES DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND INFLATIONARY EVENTS, AND THE TWENTY SIX MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$26,381,000) SOUGHT IN BILL 87-37 (LS) TO EXTEND THE PRUGRÅMAN AYUDA PARA I TAOTAO-TA ENERGY CREDIT PROGRAM FOR ANOTHER FIVE MONTHS.

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

3 **WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero signed**
4 **Executive Order 2020-03 declaring a state of emergency to respond to Novel**
5 **Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Guam; and**

1 **WHEREAS**, in the days ensuing the state of emergency, a great majority of
2 local businesses were ordered to close their doors or severely restrict their operations
3 to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 2020-03 was the first of many subsequent
5 orders that forced businesses to change how they routinely operated, added costs that
6 they would not have normally had, and lose revenues that they would have normally
7 relied on; and

8 **WHEREAS**, during the COVID-19 state of emergency, businesses were
9 subjected to mandates that included temporary closures, service restrictions, limit in
10 operations, purchasing of hygienic and protective equipment, and vaccination
11 requirements. The adherence and compliance to many of the mandates put a strain
12 on the operational capabilities and finances of the companies that many of them had
13 no choice but to either shutter their businesses temporarily or close permanently; and

14 **WHEREAS**, one of the hardest hit industries during the pandemic was
15 tourism. In 2019, Guam welcomed over 1.66 million tourists, but in 2020, our island
16 had only 328,173 visitors, an 81% reduction. In 2021, the numbers were even
17 bleaker, with just 48,859 visitors through the month of August; and

18 **WHEREAS**, tourism-related businesses reported an 80% loss in revenue in
19 2020 when compared to 2019, and in 2021, the income loss was closer to 100%; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the latest information on the Guam Department of Labor
21 website shows that in December 2022, Guam’s private sector was made up of 49,220
22 employees earning a weekly average of Six Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars and Six
23 Cents (\$627.06) while the Government of Guam employs 12,260 employees earning
24 One Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars (\$1,140.00) average weekly; and

25 **WHEREAS**, while many private sector employees either experienced a
26 tremendous loss in working hours or were laid off because of COVID-19 restrictions
27 and closures, Government of Guam employees were not subjected to a reduction in

1 hours or pay, nor was any employee furloughed or laid off, in fact some were even
2 compensated more; and

3 **WHEREAS**, due to external factors other than COVID-19 related matters
4 such as the war in Ukraine and supply chain issues, the cost of living has risen to
5 levels that have made it difficult for families pay for basic necessities such as water,
6 power, food, and gas; and

7 **WHEREAS**, while Government of Guam employees have been provided
8 regular paychecks, pay increases, upward pay adjustments, and incentive/retention
9 pays since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the majority of the island's
10 workforce were forced to tap into their savings, apply for financial assistance, or
11 leave their island home to seek employment elsewhere; and

12 **WHEREAS**, while *I Liheslatura* works to find means and monies to help all
13 island businesses and residents with their struggle to get back on their feet and make
14 ends meet, currently with Bills 75-37 (LS) and 87-37 (LS), the funding source
15 identified in both bills is inadequate to fully fund both measures; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the balance that remains in the American Rescue Plan Act of
17 2021 that the Governor has full authority and control of is more than sufficient to
18 provide the Twenty Million Dollars (\$20,000,000) that is being sought for Bill 75-
19 37 (LS) and the Twenty Six Million Three Hundred and Eighty One Thousand
20 Dollars (\$26,381,000) being sought for Bill 87-37 (LS); and

21 **WHEREAS**, *I Maga'Hågan Guåhan* has the authority and ability to fully
22 fund the programs that will assist struggling island businesses and their employees
23 and further provide financial relief to Guam Power Authority customers. This action
24 will help in directing the limited funding available in the excess General Fund to
25 other urgent matters such as addressing our crime problem, ensuring that our schools
26 are healthy environments for learning, and our hospital gets the critical attention it
27 needs.

1 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT:**

2 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* requests *I*
3 *Maga'Hågan Guåhan* to provide much needed assistance to our island residents and
4 our local businesses and their employees by providing the full funding being sought
5 in Bills 75-37 (LS) and 87-37 (LS) with the American Rescue Plan (ARP) money
6 that she has remaining and in her control; and be it further

7 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
8 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be transmitted to the Honorable
9 Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, I Maga'Hågan Guåhan, and to the Honorable Joshua F.
10 Tenorio, I Segundo Maga'Lahen Guåhan

11

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA
LIHESLATURAN GUAHAN ON THE ____ DAY OF _____, 2023.**

THERESE M. TERLAJE

Speaker

AMANDA L. SHELTON

Legislative Secretary