

**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
260-37 (LS)	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.	11/28/23 1:35 p.m.		4/26/24	1/17/24	Author	2/5/24 9:00 a.m.	3/12/24 1:56 p.m.  As amended by the Author	

***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.

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

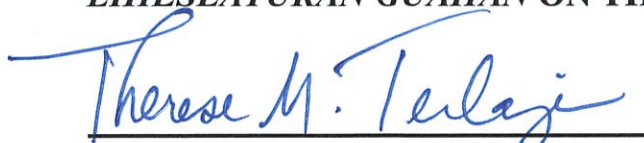
12 **WHEREAS**, the government of Guam affirms the United States’ steadfast  
13 commitment to invoke its Mutual Defense Treaty with the Philippines if an armed attack  
14 against Philippine assets, including those of the Philippine Coast Guard, is carried out  
15 in the South China Sea; urges the 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 37<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024.**



**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker



**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary