

**I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN**  
**RESOLUTIONS**

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
393-37 (LS)	Sabina Flores Perez	Relative to recognizing the sixty-ninth (69th) annual observance of "Stewardship Week" from April 28 through May 5, 2024, with the theme: " <i>May the Forest be with You, Always</i> " and commending the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to conserving Guam's forests.	4/29/24 3:45 p.m.	5/8/24 4:00 p.m.	4/29/24					

Resolution No. 393-37 (LS)

Introduced by

Sabrina Flores Perez

Chris Barnett	William A. Parkison
Frank Blas, Jr.	Ron A. B. Quinata
Joanne M. Brown	Jose S. San Agustin
Christopher M. Durieas	Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas
Thomas J. Fisher	Amanda L. Shelton
Jesse A. Lujan	Telo T. Taitague
Tina Rose Maria Barnes	Therese M. Terlaje



Relative to recognizing the sixty-ninth (69<sup>th</sup>) annual observance of “Stewardship Week” from April 28 through May 5, 2024, with the theme: “*May the Forest be with You, Always*” and commending the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to conserving Guam’s forests.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN:**

**WHEREAS**, the limestone and tropical forests *gya Guåhan* are comprised of hundreds of tree and plant species that support and maintain a unique biodiversity and ecosystem, home to flora and fauna native to Guam and the Marianas Archipelago, some of which are found nowhere else in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the 2020-2030 Guam Forest Action Plan, forty-one percent (41%) of the land area on Guam comprises forests, of which fifty-nine percent (59%) are found in the northern, *Mangilao*, and *Talo’fo’fo’* watersheds. Guam’s forests are located on northern limestone soil and on volcanic soils in the south that support grasslands, savannas, and forest fragments in sheltered and leeward sites, riparian land adjacent to rivers and streams, mangrove sites near the seashore, and wetland ecosystems with unique aquatic plants; and

**WHEREAS**, Guam’s forests and their vast array of flora and fauna can be used to trace the island’s history, from the native plants that support our traditional practices of agriculture, medicinal healing, weaving, seafaring, and wood carving - to the points in time in which new plant and animal species arrived by voyaging canoes and contact with colonial powers; and

**WHEREAS**, our forests continue to be an integral part of our survival and culture, as they provide our community with sustenance and traditional food, aesthetic beauty, agriculture, traditional healing, spirituality, and sustainability; and

**WHEREAS**, the presence of lush forests plays a vital role in mitigating flooding and erosion, which ultimately protects our sources of drinking water and coral reefs from contamination, sedimentation, and run-off; and

**WHEREAS**, trees absorb heat-trapping greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide. Conversely, deforestation enables the increase of greenhouse gas emissions that lead to brightening temperatures throughout the island; and

**WHEREAS**, Guam’s forests are consistently threatened by a multitude of factors including increased deforestation caused by rapid urban development that does not account for responsible conservation, increased military expansion, pollution from improper waste disposal and illegal dumping, the pervasiveness of invasive species and the consequent decline in native bird species, natural disasters and typhoons, wildfires caused by arson and human error, and long-standing droughts; and

**WHEREAS**, the restoration and conservation of Guam’s forests is critical to protect and sustain vulnerable ecosystems and habitats that house native and endangered species, maintain cultural values interconnected with our surrounding environment, promote our community’s mental health and overall well-being, and to create a sustainable and beautiful future for generations to come; and

**WHEREAS**, with the ongoing and pervasive threats posed to Guam’s forests, the community must take reasonable and deliberate steps to mitigate harms caused by human activities, demand accountability for unnecessary environmental destruction and deforestation, demand equitable environmental justice, support policies that protect Guam’s forestry, and actively take a stance that promotes conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Law 31-173, also known as the “Guam Forestry Legacy Act of 2012,” was established to create the Guam Forest System with the intention to protect and conserve the island’s forests, natural resources, and habitats. The law outlines objectives such as balancing the use of resources, deterring irresponsible and irreversible environmental damage, increasing education and research for preservation, and maintaining and restoring Guam’s ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, Guam’s Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts were established to assist our island community in implementing conservation programs and promoting efforts to protect and improve Guam’s natural resources for our island and our future; and

**WHEREAS**, the indigenous *Chamorro* people have sustained themselves on *Guåhan* for millennia by extending the value of *inafa’malek* [reciprocity] to the land and sea, so the forest may be with us, always; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that *I Mina Trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the sixty-ninth (69<sup>th</sup>) annual observance of “Stewardship Week” from April 28 through May 5, 2024, with the theme: “*May the Forest be with You, Always*”, and commend the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to conserving Guam’s forests; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Guam’s Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts; to Department of Agriculture Director Chelsea Muña and Division of Forestry Chief Christine Fejeran; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga’bigan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024.

  
 THERESE M. TERLAJE  
 Speaker

  
 AMANDA L. SHELTON  
 Legislative Secretary



*uff* 10:14am  
 Nicky Fernandez  
 05/08/24

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

**Resolution No. 393-37 (LS)**

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez  
Chris Barnett  
Frank Blas, Jr.  
Joanne M. Brown  
Christopher M. Dueñas  
Thomas J. Fisher  
Jesse A. Lujan  
Tina Rose Muña Barnes  
William A. Parkinson  
Roy A. B. Quinata  
Joe S. San Agustin  
Dwayne T.D. San Nicolas  
Amanda L. Shelton  
Telo T. Taitague  
Therese M. Terlaje

**Relative to recognizing the sixty-ninth (69<sup>th</sup>) annual observance of “Stewardship Week” from April 28 through May 5, 2024, with the theme: “*May the Forest be with You, Always*” and commending the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to conserving Guam’s forests.**

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

3       **WHEREAS**, the limestone and tropical forests *giya Guåhan* are comprised of  
4 hundreds of tree and plant species that support and maintain a unique biodiversity and

1 ecosystem, home to flora and fauna native to Guam and the Marianas Archipelago,  
2 some of which are found nowhere else in the world; and

3 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2020-2030 Guam Forest Action Plan, forty-one  
4 percent (41%) of the land area on Guam comprises forests, of which fifty-nine percent  
5 (59%) are found in the northern, *Mangilao*, and *Talo'fo'fo'* watersheds. Guam's forests  
6 are located on northern limestone soil and on volcanic soils in the south that support  
7 grasslands, savannas, and forest fragments in sheltered and leeward sites, riparian land  
8 adjacent to rivers and streams, mangrove sites near the seashore, and wetland  
9 ecosystems with unique aquatic plants; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Guam's forests and their vast array of flora and fauna can be used  
11 to trace the island's history, from the native plants that support our traditional practices  
12 of agriculture, medicinal healing, weaving, seafaring, and wood carving - to the points  
13 in time in which new plant and animal species arrived by voyaging canoes and contact  
14 with colonial powers; and

15 **WHEREAS**, our forests continue to be an integral part of our survival and  
16 culture, as they provide our community with sustenance and traditional food, aesthetic  
17 beauty, agriculture, traditional healing, spirituality, and sustainability; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the presence of lush forests plays a vital role in mitigating flooding  
19 and erosion, which ultimately protects our sources of drinking water and coral reefs  
20 from contamination, sedimentation, and run-off; and

21 **WHEREAS**, trees absorb heat-trapping greenhouse gases, such as carbon  
22 dioxide. Conversely, deforestation enables the increase of greenhouse gas emissions  
23 that lead to heightening temperatures throughout the island; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Guam's forests are consistently threatened by a multitude of factors  
25 including increased deforestation caused by rapid urban development that does not  
26 account for responsible conservation, increased military expansion, pollution from

1 improper waste disposal and illegal dumping, the pervasiveness of invasive species and  
2 the consequent decline in native bird species, natural disasters and typhoons, wildfires  
3 caused by arson and human error, and long-standing droughts; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the restoration and conservation of Guam’s forests is critical to  
5 protect and sustain vulnerable ecosystems and habitats that house native and  
6 endangered species, maintain cultural values interconnected with our surrounding  
7 environment, promote our community’s mental health and overall well-being, and to  
8 create a sustainable and beautiful future for generations to come; and

9 **WHEREAS**, with the ongoing and pervasive threats posed to Guam’s forests,  
10 the community must take reasonable and deliberate steps to mitigate harms caused by  
11 human activities, demand accountability for unnecessary environmental destruction and  
12 deforestation, demand equitable environmental justice, support policies that protect  
13 Guam’s forestry, and actively take a stance that promotes conservation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Public Law 31-173, also known as the “Guam Forestry Legacy Act  
15 of 2012,” was established to create the Guam Forest System with the intention to protect  
16 and conserve the island’s forests, natural resources, and habitats. The law outlines  
17 objectives such as balancing the use of resources, deterring irresponsible and  
18 irreversible environmental damage, increasing education and research for preservation,  
19 and maintaining and restoring Guam’s ecosystems; and

20 **WHEREAS**, Guam’s Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation  
21 Districts were established to assist our island community in implementing conservation  
22 programs and promoting efforts to protect and improve Guam’s natural resources for  
23 our island and our future; and

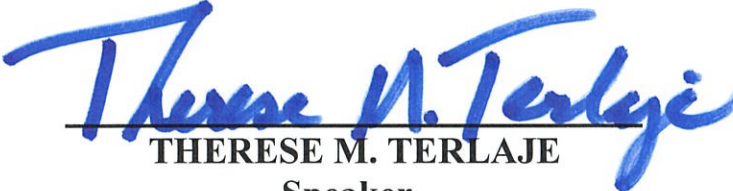
24 **WHEREAS**, the indigenous *CHamoru* people have sustained themselves on  
25 *Guåhan* for millennia by extending the value of *inafa’måolek* [reciprocity] to the land  
26 and sea, so the forest may be with us, always; now therefore, be it



1           **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,  
2 on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the sixty-ninth (69<sup>th</sup>) annual observance of  
3 “Stewardship Week” from April 28 through May 5, 2024, with the theme: “*May the*  
4 *Forest be with You, Always*”; and commend the Northern and Southern Soil and Water  
5 Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to  
6 conserving Guam’s forests; and be it further

7           **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the  
8 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Guam’s  
9 Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts; to Department of  
10 Agriculture Director Chelsa Muña and Division of Forestry Chief Christine Fejeran;  
11 and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2024.**



**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker



**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary



**OFFICE OF SENATOR SABINA FLORES PEREZ**

Chairperson

Committee on Environment, Revenue and Taxation, Labor, Procurement,  
and Statistics, Research, and Planning

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* • 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

May 7, 2024

**MEMORANDUM**

To: All Senators, Stakeholders and Media  
Fr: Senator Sabina Flores Perez  
Subject: **Presentation of Resolution No. 393-37 (LS)**

*Buenas yan Håfa Adai!*

Please join us for the presentation of resolution:

Resolution No. 393-37 (LS) - Sabina Flores Perez

“Relative to recognizing and commemorating the 69th annual observance of “Stewardship Week” from April 28th through May 5, 2024, with the theme: “May the Forest be with You, Always,” and commending the Northern and Southern Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their partners for their dedication and incredible service to conserving Guam’s forests.”

The presentation will take place on **Wednesday, May 8th, 2024, 4:00pm**, University of Guam, Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Mangilao, Guam 96915.

*Si Yu'os Ma'åse'*

*Sabina Flores Perez*

Senator Sabina Flores Perez

*I Mina'Trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*