

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
439-37 (LS)	Therese M. Terlaje	Relative to recognizing the Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand re-opening; and commending the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation.	7/1/24 8:00 a.m.	7/5/24 4:30 p.m.	7/1/24					

Resolution No. 439-37 (LS)

Introduced by

Theresa M. Terlaje	William A. Parkinson
Chris Barnett	Sabina Flores Perez
Frank Blas, Jr	Roy A. B. Quinata
Juanne M. Brown	Jose S. San Agustin
Christopher M. Duenas	Dewayne J.D. San Nicolas
Thomas J. Fisher	Amanda L. Shelton
Jesse A. Lagan	Telo T. Tautague
Tina Rose Maria Barnes	



**Relative to recognizing the Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand re-opening;
and commending the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation.**

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

WHEREAS, the Guam Historic Courthouse stands as a proud symbol of the island's progress toward civil rights and self-governance; and

WHEREAS, originally known as the U.S. District Court Building and the Island Court of Guam, the courthouse was constructed in 1968 - a formative year for the island with the enactment of Guam's Elective Governor Act; and

WHEREAS, prior to the construction of the courthouse, Guam's judicial system was situated across various office spaces in *Hagåtña*, including the Guam Congress Building, where the courts shared quarters with other legislative functions; and the overlap in these spaces highlighted the need for a dedicated judicial facility to accommodate the increasing complexity and demands of the island's legal system, ultimately leading to the establishment of a new courthouse; and

WHEREAS, as the first judicial building funded by Guam's new civil government, the courthouse was a bold statement of the island's commitment to a separate and independent judicial branch; and

WHEREAS, the courthouse was conceived through the visionary efforts of the late Honorable Joaquin Cruz Perez, who created its initial blueprint, and it was designed by architect William Albert McAlister; and

WHEREAS, reflecting the architectural trends of the late 1960s, the Historic Courthouse showcases the clean lines and modernist touches of the era, including an aluminum bris soleil that shields the building from sun and storm debris - a notable architectural achievement; and the building is further complemented by unique features such as local green stone decorative elements, an abrasive terrazzo walkway, and basket weave insitu plaster on its facade; and

WHEREAS, as a "state of the art facility," the Courthouse was meticulously designed for judicial efficiency, accommodating the branch's dual judicial structure. The first floor consisted of three (3) courtrooms for the Island Court, and one (1) courtroom on the second floor for the U.S. District Court; and the building also housed chambers for the judges, jury rooms, and office spaces for court clerks, reporters, and bailiffs; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the Historic Courthouse has witnessed significant legal and societal transformations, including landmark land condemnation cases, the inception of the Family Court under the Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz, the Alternative Sentencing Program, and the first discussions of the development of Guam's first Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2015, the Courthouse was recognized for its architectural and historical significance with its inclusion in the Guam Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, under a collaborative effort between the Judiciary of Guam and the Guam Preservation Trust, rehabilitation of the Courthouse began in 2022, carefully preserving the building's historic and architectural features, including wood furnishings in the courtrooms and judges' chambers, gallery windows, and the fifty-five (55)-foot mosaic depicting important moments in Guam history; and

WHEREAS, throughout its history, the Historic Courthouse has been home to some of the island's foremost legal minds, including Chief Justices Joaquin C. Perez (1974 to 1976, first Supreme Court of Guam) and Paul J. Abbate, Jr. (1974 to 1988); Presiding Judges Alberto C. Lamorena III (1988 to the present) and Joaquin C. Perez (July 1974 to October 1974); and Judges Joaquin C. Perez (Island Court 1960 to 1969), Vicente B. Bamba (1963 to 1970), Paul J. Abbate, Jr. (1969 to 1988), Richard Benson (1974 to 1981), Vicente C. Reyes (1974 to 1975), Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Sr. (1974 to 1995), John Raker (1975 to 1984), Janet H. Weeks (1975 to 1996), Ramon V. Diaz (1980 to 1994), Peter C. Siguenza, Jr. (1984 to 1996), and Benjamin J.F. Cruz (1984 to 1997); and

WHEREAS, countless judicial staff have also worked within the Historic Courthouse, serving the people of Guam through the administration of justice and inspiring future generations to public service; and

WHEREAS, today, the Courthouse continues to stand as a fundamental part of Guam's heritage, embodying the community's ongoing quest for justice and the rights of its people; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that I *Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of the people of Guam, recognize the Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand re-opening; and commend the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation; 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 the Honorable Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; the Honorable Alberto C. Lamorena III, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Guam; and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Moga'hügan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 1ST DAY OF JULY 2024.


THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker


AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary



M. Cruz
MARIE CRUZ
7/5/24 - 12:53pm

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

Resolution No. 439-37 (LS)

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Chris Barnett
Frank Blas, Jr.
Joanne M. Brown
Christopher M. Dueñas
Thomas J. Fisher
Jesse A. Lujan
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

Relative to recognizing the Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand re-opening; and commending the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Historic Courthouse stands as a proud symbol of the
4 island's progress toward civil rights and self-governance; and

5 **WHEREAS**, originally known as the U.S. District Court Building and the Island
6 Court of Guam, the courthouse was constructed in 1968 - a formative year for the island
7 with the enactment of Guam's Elective Governor Act; and

1 **WHEREAS**, prior to the construction of the courthouse, Guam’s judicial system
2 was situated across various office spaces in *Hagåtña*, including the Guam Congress
3 Building, where the courts shared quarters with other legislative functions; and the
4 overlap in these spaces highlighted the need for a dedicated judicial facility to
5 accommodate the increasing complexity and demands of the island’s legal system,
6 ultimately leading to the establishment of a new courthouse; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as the first judicial building funded by Guam’s new civil
8 government, the courthouse was a bold statement of the island’s commitment to a
9 separate and independent judicial branch; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the courthouse was conceived through the visionary efforts of the
11 late Honorable Joaquin Cruz Perez, who created its initial blueprint, and it was designed
12 by architect William Albert McAlister; and

13 **WHEREAS**, reflecting the architectural trends of the late 1960s, the Historic
14 Courthouse showcases the clean lines and modernist touches of the era, including an
15 aluminum bris soleil that shields the building from sun and storm debris - a notable
16 architectural achievement; and the building is further complemented by unique features
17 such as local green stone decorative elements, an abrasive terrazzo walkway, and basket
18 weave insitu plaster on its facade; and

19 **WHEREAS**, as a “state of the art facility,” the Courthouse was meticulously
20 designed for judicial efficiency, accommodating the branch’s dual judicial structure.
21 The first floor consisted of three (3) courtrooms for the Island Court, and one (1)
22 courtroom on the second floor for the U.S. District Court; and the building also housed
23 chambers for the judges, jury rooms, and office spaces for court clerks, reporters, and
24 bailiffs; and

25 **WHEREAS**, over the years, the Historic Courthouse has witnessed significant
26 legal and societal transformations, including landmark land condemnation cases, the
27 inception of the Family Court under the Honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz, the Alternative

1 Sentencing Program, and the first discussions of the development of Guam’s first
2 Supreme Court; and

3 **WHEREAS**, on June 25, 2015, the Courthouse was recognized for its
4 architectural and historical significance with its inclusion in the Guam Register of
5 Historic Places; and

6 **WHEREAS**, under a collaborative effort between the Judiciary of Guam and the
7 Guam Preservation Trust, rehabilitation of the Courthouse began in 2022, carefully
8 preserving the building’s historic and architectural features, including wood furnishings
9 in the courtrooms and judges’ chambers, gallery windows, and the fifty-five (55)-foot
10 mosaic depicting important moments in Guam history; and

11 **WHEREAS**, throughout its history, the Historic Courthouse has been home to
12 some of the island’s foremost legal minds, including Chief Justices Joaquin C. Perez
13 (1974 to 1976, first Supreme Court of Guam) and Paul J. Abbate, Jr. (1974 to 1988);
14 Presiding Judges Alberto C. Lamorena III (1988 to the present) and Joaquin C. Perez
15 (July 1974 to October 1974); and Judges Joaquin C. Perez (Island Court 1960 to 1969),
16 Vicente B. Bamba (1963 to 1970), Paul J. Abbate, Jr. (1969 to 1988), Richard Benson
17 (1974 to 1981), Vicente C. Reyes (1974 to 1975), Joaquin V.E. Manibusan, Sr. (1974
18 to 1995), John Raker (1975 to 1984), Janet H. Weeks (1975 to 1996), Ramon V. Diaz
19 (1980 to 1994), Peter C. Siguenza, Jr. (1984 to 1996), and Benjamin J.F. Cruz (1984 to
20 1997); and

21 **WHEREAS**, countless judicial staff have also worked within the Historic
22 Courthouse, serving the people of Guam through the administration of justice and
23 inspiring future generations to public service; and

24 **WHEREAS**, today, the Courthouse continues to stand as a fundamental part of
25 Guam’s heritage, embodying the community’s ongoing quest for justice and the rights
26 of its people; 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 Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand
3 re-opening; and commend the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation; and be
4 it further

5 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
6 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
7 Robert J. Torres, Jr., Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Guam; the Honorable
8 Alberto C. Lamorena III, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Guam; and to the
9 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE 1ST DAY OF JULY 2024.



THERESE M. TERLAJE
Speaker



AMANDA L. SHELTON
Legislative Secretary



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 37th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice, and Culture

July 2, 2024

MEMORANDUM

To: All Senators, Stakeholders
From: Speaker Therese M. Terlaje *TMT*
Subject: **Notice of Presentation - Resolution No. 439-37 (LS)**

Buenas yan Håfa Adai!

Please join us for the presentation of **Resolution No. 439-37 (LS)** - "Relative to recognizing the Guam Historic Courthouse on its grand re-opening; and commending the efforts of all those involved in its rehabilitation."

Resolution No. 439-37 (LS) will be presented on **Friday, July 5, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., at the Guam Historic Courthouse, 120 West O'Brien Drive, Hagåtña.**

We look forward to your participation.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!