

**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
226-37 (COR)	Tina Rose Muña Barnes	RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.	10/18/23 12:52 p.m.			10/20/23	Author	11/6/23 5:30 p.m.	11/13/23 4:06 p.m.	



Office of the Vice Speaker  
**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

November 13, 2023

**The Honorable Speaker Therese M. Terlaje**  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
163 Chalan Santo Papa  
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

**VIA: The Honorable Chris Barnett** *DS*  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**RE: Author's Report on Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)**

*Buenas yan Håfa adai Speaker Terlaje,*

Transmitted herewith is the Committee Report on **Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)**, –  
“RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48  
USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF  
WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES  
CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.”

Sincerely,

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
Author



**COMMITTEE ON RULES**

Received:

November 13, 2023 3:25 p.m.

*Beatrice Cruz*



Office of the Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guahan*

**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

## **AUTHOR'S REPORT**

### **Bill No. 226-37 (COR)**

**Introduced by Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

**“RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO  
PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC  
CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING  
STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF  
WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.”**



## COMMITTEE ON RULES

Senator Chris Barnett, Chairperson  
*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

October 20, 2023

**To:** **Joaquin P. Taitague**  
Substitute Clerk of the Legislature

**Attorney Darleen Hiton**  
Legislative Legal Counsel

**From:** **Senator Chris Barnett**   
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

**Subject:** **Referral of Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)**

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*Håfa Adai yan Biba Guåhan!*

As per authority as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and subject to §§ 7.03(e), and, 7.04(b) Rule VII of our Standing Rules, and 2 GCA § 2103(b), I am forwarding the referral of **Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)** – Tina Rose Muña Barnes. – “RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.”

Please ensure that the subject Resolution is referred to Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes, Author of the Resolution. I also request that the same be forwarded to Management Information Services (MIS) for posting on our website.

A copy of the resolution is available on our legislative website <https://guamlegislature.com/index/37th-guam-legislature-resolutions/>.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Kamarin J.A. Nelson, Committee on Rules Director at 671-472-2461.



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**FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

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**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes** <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Fri, Oct 27, 2023 at 4:00 PM

October 27, 2023

**MEMORANDUM****TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders****FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes****SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

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*Buenas yan Hâfa Adai!* Please be advised a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.** will convene in the Public Hearing Room of the Guam Congress Building, on the following:

**Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)** Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes

RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.

For individuals wishing to provide testimony, please contact our office by email at [senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org) or call 671-989-8762. Written testimony may be delivered to the Office of Vice Speaker Tina Muña Barnes at Suite 411 –134 West Soledad Avenue *Hagåtña*, GU 96910 or via email to [senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org).


In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, individuals requiring assistance or accommodations should contact the Office of Vice Speaker Muña Barnes by phone call at 671-989-8762 or via email at [senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org).


The hearing will broadcast on local television, GTA Channel 21, Docomo Channel 117, and online via *I Liheslaturan Guåhan's* live feed at [http://www.guamlegislature.com/live\\_feed.htm](http://www.guamlegislature.com/live_feed.htm). A recording of the hearing will be available online via Guam Legislature Media on YouTube after the hearing. *Si Yu'os Ma'åse'!*

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**3 attachments**

 **Agenda - November 6.pdf**  
167K

 **First Notice - November 6 (OCTOBER 27 POSTING).pdf**  
248K

 **Res. No. 226-37 (COR).pdf**  
1706K



Office of the Vice Speaker

## TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

October 27, 2023

### MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**  
**FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** – Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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Office of the Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

**37TH Guam Legislature**

**FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

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# FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.


 PRINT


**FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Wednesday,  
November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**





 **Posted on:** 10/27/2023 08:31 AM

 **Posted by:** Alan Cepeda

 **Public Hearing Date:** 11/06/2023 05:30 PM

 **Department(s):** **GUAM LEGISLATURE** (/notices?department\_id=92)

 **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR TINA MUNA BARNES (/notices?division\_id=274)

 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

 **Share this notice**

October 27, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**  
**FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**  
**SUBJECT: FIRST NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** – Wednesday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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**Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)**

**([http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/COR\\_Res\\_37th/Res.%20No.%20226-37%20\(COR\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_37th/Res.%20No.%20226-37%20(COR).pdf))** Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes

RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.

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**SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

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**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes** <senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org>  
To: phnotice@guamlegislature.org

Thu, Nov 2, 2023 at 1:00 PM

November 3, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders

**FROM:** Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**SUBJECT:** SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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**3 attachments**

 **Second Notice - November 6.pdf**  
248K

 **Res. No. 226-37 (COR).pdf**  
1706K

 **Agenda - November 6.pdf**  
167K



Office of the Vice Speaker

## TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

### 37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

November 3, 2023

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**

**FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

**SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING** – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

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Office of the Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

**37TH Guam Legislature**

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**SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**





📅 **Posted on:** 11/03/2023 12:30 PM

👤 **Posted by:** Alan Cepeda

🏢 **Department(s):** GUAM LEGISLATURE (/notices?department\_id=92)

📁 **Division(s):** OFFICE OF SENATOR TINA MUNA BARNES (/notices?division\_id=274)

🔍 **Notice Topic(s):** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?topic\_id=74)

📄 **Types of Notice:** PUBLIC HEARING (/notices?type\_id=7)

👥 **For Audience(s):** PUBLIC (/notices?public=1)

➡ **Share this notice**

November 3, 2023

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: All Senators, Media, and Stakeholders**

**FROM: Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

**SUBJECT: SECOND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**

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**([http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th\\_Guam\\_Legislature/COR\\_Res\\_37th/Res.%20No.%20226-37%20\(COR\).pdf](http://www.guamlegislature.com/37th_Guam_Legislature/COR_Res_37th/Res.%20No.%20226-37%20(COR).pdf))** Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes

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Office of the Vice Speaker

**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**

*I Mina'trentai Siette Na Liheslaturan Guåhan*

**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

# AGENDA

Public Hearing Room

Guam Congress Building

Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

**Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)** Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes

RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT  
§ 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING  
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PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.



Office of the Vice Speaker  
**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

**Public Hearing Sign-in Sheet**  
**Monday, November 6, 2023 • Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building**

Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) Sponsor(s) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes

**RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.**

NAME	AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (IF ANY)	SUPPORT? OPPOSE?	TESTIMONY		CONTACT NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
			WRITTEN	ORAL		
PAUL STRAUSS	DC	Support		X		senator@dc.gov



Office of the Vice Speaker  
**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**  
*I Mina'trentai Siette na Liheslaturan Guåhan*  
**37<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature**

**COMMITTEE REPORT DIGEST**

**Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

“RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.”

**I. OVERVIEW**

Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) was introduced on October 18, 2023 by Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes. The Bill was referred by the Committee on Rules to the Author on October 20, 2023.

The Author convened a public hearing on Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) on November 6, 2023 in *I Liheslatura's* Public Hearing Room (Guam Congress Building). The Public Hearing began at 5:35 p.m. and was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) was the only item heard.

**Public Notice Requirements**

In accordance with the Open Government Law, public notices for the Public Hearing were disseminated via e-mail to all senators and all main media broadcasting outlets on October 27, 2023 (5-Day Notice), and on November 2, 2023 (48-Hour Notice). The public notice was also published in PBS Guam via TV Ad and the Guam Legislature website.

**Senators Present**

Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes – Author  
Speaker Therese M. Terlaje

**Appeared Before the Committee**

The Honorable Paul Strauss, Shadow Senator of Washington D.C.

**II. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY AND DISCUSSION**

The public hearing was called to order at 5:35 p.m.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:** *Buenas yan háfa adai todus hamyo!* This public hearing is called to order. It is 5:35 p.m. For the record and in accordance with 5 GCA, Chapter 8, Subsection 8107, public hearing notices were sent on Friday, October 27, 2023 adhering to the five (5) days notice, and a second public notice on Thursday, November 2, 2023, forty-eight (48) hours prior.

In addition, this hearing was noticed on the legislature's website – [www.guamlegislature.com](http://www.guamlegislature.com). Written testimonies may be submitted by emailing [senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org) or you may hand deliver to our office at suite 411 - 134 W. Soledad Avenue, Hagatna guam.

On the agenda, ladies and gentlemen, we have the:

- **Resolution No. 226-37 (COR) - Tina Rose Muña Barnes - RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51."**

Before we proceed with the discussion, I would first like to provide some General Rules of Conduct for all who are in attendance. The conduct of this hearing shall be as follows:

1. Those testifying will be recognized in the order of Sign-up on the sign-in sheet.
2. Written testimony may be read and submitted to the Committee. Please provide our Legislative staff with your written testimony for photocopying.
3. Persons will be allowed to present oral testimony only once. Lengthy testimony should be summarized to five (5) minutes. Once you are done, please remain in the room for any questions by my colleagues.
4. Questions and testimony shall be confined to the substance or nature of the agenda. Personal inference as to the character or the motive of any Senator, or any individual testifying, is NOT permitted. Any

violations of this general rule of conduct will result in removal from the hearing Room.

5. When you speak, please make sure that the microphone is 'on' and that you speak INTO the microphone.
6. Please state your name for the record and where you're from.
7. In the interest of time, each member will be given 5 minutes. If needed, we will do a second round of questions to the panel.

Those who do not follow these rules of engagement will be removed from this public hearing room.

With that being said, we will move on to the hearing on:

Resolution No. 226-37 (COR), "RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51."

We do have someone who signed up to testify on this resolution and thank again the Speaker for being here and I know he's The Lone Ranger but I want to take the time before he starts to thank him for taking the long journey from Washington DC to come here so, Senator Paul Strauss you have the floor.

**Senator Paul Strauss:** Thank you very much Madame Vice Speaker, Madam Speaker. It is a privilege to be before you today. I was in the neighborhood as it were and so the trip wasn't quite as long as it otherwise might have been but I appreciate you accommodating me your kind invitation and let me just thank all of the people of Guam for their wonderful hospitality from the moment I landed to all the days that I've spent here on this beautiful beautiful place. I would encourage any of my fellow Americans to come visit even if you're not testifying in support of an important public resolution.

Let me thank you for the introduction of this resolution in support of DC statehood we have solicited such resolutions from the legislatures of other states and other territories but this resolution that you're introducing is unique in that you are putting behind it this specific force of law that comes with Guam's unique ability to petition pursuant to Title 48 of the United States Code and by doing so you invoke the special obligations of the Congress to consider expeditiously a petition that's



based in your legal Organic Act. The resolution does a wonderful job of identifying the issues that we have in common and a few distinctions.

For example, it points out that we in the District of Columbia get the right to vote in the Electoral College but it's not generally known that that right is not based on our population under the specific amendment to the Constitution that gave us that representation. We are tied to the population right now of the state of Wyoming so our representation in the Electoral College isn't based on our population, it says that we can only vote so long as our votes don't exceed that of the least populous state. Certainly an important step but not exactly the equality that we would deserve and of course Guam doesn't have the right to vote for the commander-in-chief despite the fact that it sends more people per capita in our military than any other territory and I've met so many of our men and women in uniform here and let me again take this opportunity to thank them for their continued service.

The residents of Washington DC are leaders in another way we pay more federal taxes per capita than any other territory and so it is that unique coincidence of a territory giving more than the other states and yet being denied the political equality that comes from that status your resolution correctly points out that no other capital in the world denies the right to self-governance to its people and the capital and it points out that this is a serious violation not just of the fundamental constitutional principles of equal protection and fairness, but arguably violates international law as well. I was recently at a conference on international law and it just boggles the mind how so many people look to the United States as an example of leadership in this area and yet we devalue that Legacy by not according full citizenship to all of the Americans who live under our laws who serve under our flag whether you're on the mainland or in one of the territories.

So your resolution cites the universal Declaration of Human Rights as it should that says that no distinction should be made on the basis of political jurisdictional or other status other International bodies such as the oce the OAS have taken up the issue of DC statehood just as the UN has considered Guam status as a non-self-governing territory it is time in America's third century that we really solve this problem once and for all.

Finally, we're here on the status of DC. For us statehood is really the fundamental option that we want. We are certainly not here to impose our version of status on anybody else and we know that the decision of the people of Guam has yet to be

finally made. But for us we have had our plebiscite we have had our referendums and 86% of Washington DC voters have voted in support of being a state.

The bill for DC state has passed the United States House of representatives twice but we have yet to be able to pass it in the house and then get concurrent passage in the United States Senate and your resolution rightly points out that DC voters continue to recommit themselves to statehood by electing a full Congressional Delegation despite congress not necessarily giving us that privilege yet and that's myself and the other members of our so-called Shadow Congressional Delegation.

So, we appreciate this gesture of solidarity I was struck by the Associate Professor from the University of Guam Professor Raigetel's remarks at the ceremony that we attended for Independence Day of Micronesia, and he talked about the historic culture of the canoes and the first explorers who would set off in the boats and he stressed the importance of the ores going in the same direction. Well, our territories may not be contiguous, but we are literally in the same boat as it were, and I think we should take the professor's advice we should continue to strategize we should continue to understand each other better and we should make sure that those ores in the ancient tradition of the Chamorro people continue to be pulled in the same direction. Thank you so much for the opportunity to appear before you today I appreciate this gesture and of course I would welcome any questions that the members of the legislature would have let me note that DC and Guam are also together in the fact that we have a unicameral legislature and so it's just one of the many unique coincidences that tie our two people together thank you very much.

**Chairperson Tina Rose Muña Barnes:** Thank you very much, Senator and before I do any comments I'd like to yield to the Speaker and ask her if she'd like to say any comments or ask any questions.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:** Well, thank you for your testimony and I'm honored that you are here and willing to engage with us in this discussion. I'm a little curious and I have to acknowledge my being not that well informed maybe about, but I'm curious if maybe you could explain and maybe it might help us as well to understand what opposition there is to your as you said it passed twice in the house and so what does the field look like in that regard.

**Senator Paul Strauss:** Well thank you for that question and I understand why you're asking it it's difficult for me to speak for the opponents but some of the opposition we get is that people fundamentally don't understand the nature of Washington DC.

They say for example that we're too small to be a state and yet our population exceeds that of at least two other states Wyoming and Vermont it is comparable to Delaware, Alaska, Montana some of the smaller States and population that have at-large members. Some people think that Washington DC is not home to as many people as it is they see us sort of as a the attractions and the tourist things but there's a sense that perhaps at the end of the day it closes up and everybody goes back somewhere else kind of like a federal version of Disneyland. Some people think mistakenly that the District of Colombia receives and is funded by the federal government, when in fact the four billion we give to the federal Treasury and the rank of paying more federal taxes than many other states.

The resolution says 22 but I think actually that number is a little higher we are a donor jurisdiction and so we're number one per capita we're higher in the aggregate I thought it was 14 but we'll confirm that number and so we're really supporting the federal government it's not like the White House or any of these other folks are paying a water bill or supporting the utilities so they're wrong on that so there's a lot of factual misinformation that they have.

But, unfortunately a lot of the argument is political. There are members of one political party that are concerned about what would the impact be of having two additional voting senators from another political party and there is a sense that for that reason alone DC may be too blue in the eyes of some to be a state. But for generations, there has been a legacy of federal oversight of the district that allowed them to treat us essentially as a colony. Congress still has the ability to overturn any of the laws that we our elected legislature passes and so when our Council of the District of Colombia passes a law if Congress doesn't like it they can change it. And there are many members of Congress that for whatever reason continue to like that power and are reluctant to give it up.

But democracy is about hearing all voices, democracy is about all petitions. Earlier today I had the privilege of speaking to one of the classes of political science at the University of Guam and we talked about it like an orchestra. If you were to suddenly take out the violins and refuse to let them play, you're not really punishing the string section so much is diminishing the quality of the music for everyone. Our democracy is like that when our voice isn't heard when the voice of any American

isn't represented equally the quality of that democracy is diminished and unfortunately there are some people who are looking more towards partisan advantage as opposed to letting all voices be heard. I have been in this position since 1997 and I have seen a fundamental change in the way that my voting Senate colleagues continue to work with each other and a decline in the comedy of that. I, that is not a good reason to deny equal rights to over 700,000 American citizens it's not a good reason to deny political equality or self-determination of the people of Guam. All Americans deserve equality and we know that that message is understood uniquely by our fellow Americans here on this beautiful island.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:** Thank you very much Senator. If the house bill passes and the Senate bill passes is there any additional step for the District of Colombia to go through?

**Senator Paul Strauss:** No, the Constitution is pretty clear that the admission of new states is the specific province of Congress. Although the president traditionally signs a statehood admission act as pro forma exercise of executive power. One of the things that this bill our bill does is that it preserves the seat of federal government to the area that is actually Federal in jurisdiction. So right now, we have an area called the national capital service area it contains the White House the capital building so many of the wonderful Smithsonian museums that people enjoy visiting and it's an important legal distinction because it talks about whose government does what portion. A significant part of Guam, of course, is under Federal territory and so you have your federal districts and your local areas, and we have the same, that would be preserved and so the Constitutional vision of a unique seat of federal government under Federal control would be preserved. But we're taking the residential portion out.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:** I see.

**Senator Paul Strauss:** So, nobody would live in that new federal district well there's one family that gets a big white house but other than that nobody would live there and I'm told those residents are temporary and typically vote somewhere else the current occupant votes back in Delaware. So, we would really preserve the federal area, admit the rest of the district as a state and then hopefully have two new senators and a voting member of Congress that would get to work serving the American people at a time when let's face it we need all the help we can get.

**Speaker Therese M. Terlaje:** Sure, well that that makes sense that seems like that would alleviate a big concern from a lot of people so I'm really grateful to you for your Insight here today and for the vice speaker's leadership in this measure moving it forward and wishing you the best Senator, si Yu'us ma'ase.

**Senator Paul Strauss:** Thank you madam Speaker.

**Vice Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes:** Si Yu'os Ma'ase' Madam Speaker for being here and sharing your comments and your inquiries to Senator Paul Strauss. I personally want to say that we probably met each other two or three terms ago and in our efforts to try and fight for our cause you for Statehood and us the people of Guam just to try and determine our political status. we've been at it since 1950 since the organic act that's been signed with a commitment that our people of Guam will choose what kind of government it wants and though there maybe differences there's so much similarities as we continue to move forward and there's one thing I'd like to say to you is you've never given up.

Your commitment every time as Speaker Terlaje had mentioned it was passed, you said it was passed in the House of Representatives twice and yet still not going through, through the Senate but not giving up so I always say right if you first don't succeed you try again and I'll tell you, you know something's got to budge sooner than later. But not giving up is probably the biggest strength that one can have.

And I can share that story since World War II Guam got liberated in 1944 and we from for 1941 to 1944 was World War II we were bombed in a war that we never asked for as a people of Guam and so many years later there was a commitment for the people of Guam the survivors to get their claim. And it, we finally just closed that chapter after much not just heartache just a lot of struggles trials and tribulations but literally knowing that there was a symbol of at least trying to understand from a perspective of a World War II Survivor knowing that they just wanted that sense to know that they were around and be given that we finally closed that chapter. We never gave up, so many decades later.

And in the same effort as we continue to move forward to try and see how we can decolonize ourselves and a commitment that Uncle Sam said you know what since the signing of the Organic Act, this commitment would be there for your choosing, not ours but for the people of Guam. So in those efforts when I was asked to work on this resolution I said I would support it and one would say well why when you

have no sense of I mean it's not going to make a difference you don't vote there and I bet symbolically a fight and a quest to move forward to work with what was rightfully asked by the people and that's something that we continue to work with. So, I'm really appreciative speaker that you've come here tonight to join me in this resolution. And Senator Strauss, I know you've come a very very long way to come to this public hearing but for you to come here personally *un dangkolo na si Yu'os ma'ase'* for being here to testify in support of this resolution and a commitment that I will expedite the committee report and see if we can get in in our next session or before the year closes up.

So with that being said if there's no one else to speak I will note, thank you again for being here Senator Strauss, I will call this resolution 226-37 (COR), which is, "RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51."

If anybody else wishes to present written testimony they can do so by sending it to [senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org](mailto:senatormunabarnes@guamlegislature.org) or they may send it or hand deliver it to 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña Guam 96910 or to my office at 134 West Soledad Avenue, Suite 411 Hagåtña Guam 96910. This resolution number 226-37 has been publicly heard today and we will adjourn at 5:57 p.m. *Si Yu'os ma'ase'* and *si yu'os un binidisi*. We are adjourned thank you.

The public hearing was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

### III. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Author hereby reports out **Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)** - "RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8 RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS H.R. 51 AND S. 51.," with the recommendation to do adopt.



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

**Resolution No. 226-37 (COR)**

Introduced by:

Tina Rose Muña Barnes 

**RELATIVE TO EXERCISING THE RIGHT TO  
PETITION PURSUANT § 1423 K. OF 48 USC CHAPTER 8  
RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING STATEHOOD FOR THE  
PEOPLE OF WASHINGTON D.C. AND SPECIFICALLY  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS  
H.R. 51 AND S. 51.**

1 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF**  
2 ***I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS**, the nation that is built on the spirit of patriotism and unity, sadly  
4 denies equal political rights to the residents of Washington D.C. and Guam in the U.S.  
5 Congress. Both our delegates do not have a vote on the final passage of legislation, and  
6 unlike D.C., Guam has no votes in the Electoral College. Both the residents of D.C. and  
7 Guam lack many fundamental rights afforded to citizens of the fifty states, including  
8 full Congressional representation; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the residents of Guam and D.C. both served in the past wars and  
10 contributed dearly with their lives in making this nation strong- are still unrepresented  
11 and denied citizenship equality; deprived of their own star in that sacred flag we hold  
12 so dearly; and

13 **WHEREAS**, no other nation in the world denies right to self-governance –  
14 including lack of participation and access in the practice of our political rights in the  
15 United States Congress by the Framers of the Constitution of the United States. This

1 represents serious breaches of universal and human rights, violating Article 2 of the  
2 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that “*no distinction shall be*  
3 *made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country*  
4 *or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-*  
5 *governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty;”* and

6 **WHEREAS**, unlike Guam, the residents of Washington, D.C. pay more in total  
7 federal income tax than residents of 22 other states but have no say over how those tax  
8 dollars are spent; and

9 **WHEREAS**, although the people of Guam has yet to decide on a political status,  
10 Washington, D.C. residents affirmed their desire to become a state, and 86% of voters  
11 supported Statehood in a publicly sponsored plebiscite in 2016; and

12 **WHEREAS**, D.C. residents continue to express their support for D.C. Statehood  
13 by voting to elect non-voting shadow US Senators and Representatives, in publicly  
14 sponsored elections; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Guam and Washington D.C. both functions and perform all the  
16 duties that is assigned to states, like administration, health and public services that also  
17 serves active duty members in the region; and

18 **WHEREAS**, we exist in a so-called democracy where our voices are oppressed-  
19 however, Guam is not alone in the fight to be heard; now therefore, be it

20 **RESOLVED**, that recognizing the history of our nation’s foundation on the  
21 principle of the rights of all people to self-government that *I Liheslaturan Guahan*  
22 supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States of  
23 America to govern themselves without congressional interference and call upon the

1 United States Congress and the American people to make Washington, D.C. the 51<sup>st</sup>  
2 State in the United States of America; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules  
4 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of  
5 the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable James C. Moylan, Delegate, United  
6 States House of Representatives; the Honorable James Comer, Chairman on the House  
7 Committee on Oversight and Accountability; The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman on  
8 the House Committee on Rules; The Honorable Patty Murray, Senate President *Pro*  
9 *Tempore*; The Honorable Eleanor Homes Norton, Congresswoman, United States  
10 House of Representatives; The Honorable Paul Strauss, Shadow Senator, United States  
11 Senate; Merce Monje Cano, General-Secretary, Unrepresented Nations & Peoples  
12 Organization; Melvin Won Pat-Borja, Executive Director of the Commission on  
13 Decolonization; and to the Honorable Lourdes Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF  
I MINA'TRENTAI SIETTE NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE DAY  
OF MONTH 2023.**

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**THERESE M. TERLAJE**  
Speaker

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**CHRIS BARNETT**  
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

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**AMANDA L. SHELTON**  
Legislative Secretary