

I MINA'TRENTAI KUÁTTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
RESOLUTION STATUS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
228-34 (COR)	Telena Cruz Nelson	RELATIVE TO ADDRESSING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE NORTHERN COASTLINE OF GUAM, AND PROHIBITING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIVE FIRE TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX AT NORTHWEST FIELD	9/15/17 9:08 a.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2017 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 228-34 (COR)

Introduced by:

Telena Cruz Nelson



RELATIVE TO ADDRESSING THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE NORTHERN COASTLINE OF GUAM, AND PROHIBITING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LIVE FIRE TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX AT NORTHWEST FIELD

2017 SEP 15 AM 9:08 C.S.

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BE IT RESOLVED BY *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:

WHEREAS, Guam is an unincorporated territory and Pacific island with a unique and vulnerable ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, after 57 years after the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, there still remain 17 Non-SelfGoverning Territories, including Guam; and

WHEREAS, it has been identified by the United Nations, that military activity has a negative impact on the civil rights and interests of the peoples of Non-SelfGoverning Territories, including Guam, and on the exercise of their rights of selfdetermination;; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense plans to construct the Live Fire Training Range Complex on Northwest Field; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense has not adequately proven the need
2 for another live fire training range when several exist on island and throughout the
3 archipelago and region; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Defense lacks the necessary data to adequately
5 determine impacts on the environment and historical sites owing to incomplete
6 surveys according to federal (Section 106) standards; and

7 **WHEREAS**, at stake are one thousand acres of some of our last remaining
8 pristine limestone forests, which are natural wonders created by centuries of
9 geological processes and biological evolution and adaptation resulting in unique karst
10 formations, plants and animals; and

11 **WHEREAS**, these limestone forests are home to several endangered or
12 threatened species found only in Guam or within the CNMI, and conservation best
13 practices require that to protect a species, it is essential to protect the habitat in which
14 they live; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Guam's native and endemic species face multiple threats
16 including climate change, overharvesting, invasive species, pollution, and habitat loss,
17 which are the main causes of extinction; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the construction and operation of the Live Fire Training Range
19 Complex at Northwest Field will adversely impact ancestral and historical sites
20 located at Northwest Field – as well as those in the adjacent villages of Litekyan,
21 Urunao, Pahon, and Jinapsan, causing more adverse impact than any other site
22 alternative; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the unavoidable noise pollution generated by the operation of a
24 Live Fire Training Range Complex on Northwest Field would desecrate the numerous
25 ancestral and family burials at Litekyan; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex on
2 Northwest Field could bring about the destruction of historical sites that are also
3 significant sacred and spiritual sites for the indigenous CHamoru people, as well as a
4 number of sites considered for the Guam and National Register of Historic Places; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Litekyan is land held in trust for the community to protect our
6 heritage and provide a space for Chamorro people to connect to our ancestral past; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the overlay of the selected site for the Live Fire Training Range
8 Complex into Litekyan breaks the spirit of the Government’s agreement with the
9 Department of Defense (DOD), specifying that military projects would stay within the
10 DOD footprint; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex on
12 Northwest Field could allow for contamination of the Northern Guam Lens Aquifer;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, according the Draft SEIS, “*Range operations under Alternative 5*
15 *have the potential to leach munitions constituents to the water;*” and

16 **WHEREAS**, the 6.7 million bullets contain lead and other chemicals that can
17 leach into our aquifer and potentially contaminate our drinking water that supplies
18 about 90% of the island’s population; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex on
20 Northwest Field would be unreasonably destructive to Guam’s endangered species
21 and the islands Northern Guam Lens Aquifer; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex on
23 Northwest Field would be unreasonably destructive to significant ancestral and
24 historical sites; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex on
26 Northwest Field would prevent access for traditional healers, fishermen, native

1 landowners with generational ties to this region, school children, tourists, and the
2 CHamoru people at large, is an obstruction to reconnecting to, practicing, and
3 maintaining cultural heritage and practices; and

4 WHEREAS, no mitigation measure can adequately replace permanent damage
5 to our natural and cultural resources; and

6 WHEREAS, it is imperative that the Government of Guam defend the rights
7 and fight for environmental justice of the people of Guam; now therefore be it

8 **RESOLVED**, that 1. That all necessary steps be taken to halt the construction
9 of the construction of the Live Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field,
10 Andersen Air Force Base located directly above and thus would detrimentally impact
11 Litekyan. 2. That the 2011 Programmatic Agreement be amended to prohibit
12 Litekyan, which is listed in the Guam Register of Historic Places, from being included
13 as one of the areas of impact for military expansion on Guam. 3. The Government of
14 Guam and Department of Defense to adopt a policy that clearly protects cultural and
15 historical sites and to implement a policy of avoidance of adverse impacts instead of
16 the imposed policy of mitigation of adverse impacts for upcoming projects. 4. The
17 Government of Guam and the Department of Defense to immediately disclose all
18 information regarding all State Historic Preservation Office concurred DoD Section
19 106 undertakings and the construction dates of implementation, as well as, ongoing
20 mitigation for past and current DoD projects involving Guam's land and marine
21 resources. 5. For a Temporary Restraining Order on any construction or action that
22 increases the Department of Defense footprint on Guam and an immediate site visit of
23 the boundaries of the SDZ and the footprint of the planned LFTRC.; and be it further

24 **RESOLVED**, *I Mina'Trentai Kuattro Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby,
25 on behalf of the people of Guam respectfully request to address the protection of the
26 environmental and cultural resources of the Northern Coastline of Guam, and

1 Prohibiting the construction of the live fire training range complex at Northwest Field;
2 and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the State
5 Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO); to the Department of Interior; to the Honorable
6 Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; and to the
7 Honorable Edward J.B. Calvo, *I Maga'lahen Guåhan*.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY *I MINA'TRENTAI KUATTRO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE ____ DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2017.

BENJAMIN J. F. CRUZ
Speaker

REGINE BISCOE LEE
Legislative Secretary