



Mayors' Council of Guam
Honsehelon Mahot Guåhan

CERTIFICATION OF THE ADOPTION OF A MAYORS' COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT RESOLUTION NO. 26-01 "RELATIVE TO OPPOSING DEEP-SEA MINING AND AFFIRMING THE PROTECTION OF GUAM'S OCEANS, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND CULTURAL PRACTICES." WAS ADOPTED ON THE 7TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

MAYOR LOUISE C. RIVERA
SECRETARY and MAYOR OF TAMUNING



38GL-26-1720
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
January 9, 2026
..... 4:34 p.m.

Marie Crisostomo

MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM

Konsehelon Mahot Guahan

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01

Introduced By:

Mayor J.L.G. Alig
Mayor R.R.D.C. Hofmann
Mayor L.C. Rivera
Mayor K.J.T. Susuico
Vice Mayor J.P. Bautista
Mayor R.B. Arroyo
Mayor D.C.P. Alvarez
Mayor P.J. Benavente
Mayor J.U. Blas
Mayor F.J.Q. Champaco
Mayor A.J. Chargualaf
Mayor M.T. Gumataotao
Mayor F. S. Lizama
Mayor R.A. Paco
Mayor J.A. Quinata
Mayor F.A. Salas
Mayor W.S.N. Santos
Mayor V.S. Taitague
Mayor B.J. Terlaje
Mayor A.R.G. Ungacta
Vice Mayor P.S. Blas
Vice Mayor C.J. Fejeran
Vice Mayor A.S.SA. Leon Guerrero
Vice Mayor E.J.D. Tosco
Vice Mayor A.M. Toves

RELATIVE TO OPPOSING DEEP-SEA MINING AND AFFIRMING THE PROTECTION OF GUAM'S OCEANS, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, FOOD SYSTEMS, AND CULTURAL PRACTICES

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYORS' COUNCIL OF GUAM:

WHEREAS, the people of Guam, through their municipalities and families, have exercised stewardship over the land and ocean since time immemorial, and village leadership has long played a central role in safeguarding marine resources that sustain the island's food systems, livelihoods, culture, traditions, and identity; and

WHEREAS, coastal and marine ecosystems surrounding Guam support subsistence fishing, commercial fisheries, tourism, recreation, and ecosystem services critical to community health and economic resilience; and

WHEREAS, deep-sea mining proposes the industrial extraction of minerals from the ocean floor, including areas that are scientifically under-studied and ecologically fragile, with impacts that may be irreversible; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed scientific research indicates that deep-sea mining poses significant risks to marine biodiversity, including the destruction of habitat, loss of endemic species, disruption of food webs, and long-lasting sediment plumes that may travel far beyond mining sites; and

WHEREAS, sediment plumes, noise, vibration, light pollution, and potential toxic releases associated with deep-sea mining threaten pelagic and benthic species relied upon by Guam's communities for food security and cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impacts of deep-sea mining, climate change, ocean warming, acidification, and coral reef degradation could compound harms to Guam's marine ecosystems and undermine long-term resilience; and

WHEREAS, the health of Guam's residents is directly linked to the health of the ocean through seafood consumption, cultural practices, and coastal recreation, and any degradation of marine environments may pose risks to public health; and

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WHEREAS, CHamoru culture and other Indigenous and local traditions recognize the ocean as a living system deserving of respect, care, and restraint, and affirm the responsibility of municipal leaders and communities to act as stewards for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, decisions regarding resource development affecting Guam's lands and waters have historically been made without full and meaningful participation of municipal governments, the Mayors' Council of Guam, and local communities, undermining traditional stewardship and local self-governance; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors' Council of Guam represents the collective voice of elected municipal leaders who are entrusted with protecting the welfare, environment, marine resources, and cultural heritage of their constituents; and

WHEREAS, precautionary governance requires that activities with uncertain, but potentially severe or irreversible environmental impacts should not proceed without robust scientific understanding, transparent decision-making, and the free, prior, and informed consent of affected communities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the *Mayors' Council of Guam* does hereby, on behalf of the residents of Guam's municipalities, declares its formal opposition to any exploration, leasing, development, or commercial deep-sea mining activities in waters adjacent to Guam or otherwise affecting Guam's marine environment, food systems, public health, or cultural practices until sufficient and credible evidence is available that no harm will come to Guam, its people, and its environment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council affirms that the protection of marine ecosystems, fisheries, and ocean health is essential to safeguarding the physical, cultural, and economic well-being of Guam's people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council calls for the application of the precautionary principle to any proposed deep-sea mining activities, recognizing that the lack of scientific certainty must not be used to justify actions that may cause irreversible harm; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council urges federal agencies and decision-makers to recognize and respect the authority of Guam's municipalities and elected mayors, and to ensure early, continuous, and meaningful consultation with municipal governments, the Mayors' Council of Guam, the Government of Guam, and affected communities before any offshore decisions are made; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council affirms that subsistence fishing, traditional practices, and access to safe and healthy seafood are fundamental rights of Guam's people and must not be compromised by extractive activities; and be it further


RESOLVED, that the Council encourages investment in sustainable and circular approaches to mineral use, recycling, and technological innovation that reduce demand for new seabed extraction and align with climate and environmental goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council commits to working collaboratively with the Government of Guam, regional partners, national and international organizations, scientists, and community groups to advocate for strong protections of the ocean and opposition to deep-sea mining; and be it further


RESOLVED, that the President certify and the Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hagan Guahan*; The Honorable Frank Blas, Jr. Speaker of *I Mina' Trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan* and The Honorable James C. Moylan, Delegate to the United States House of Representatives.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED on this 7th day of January, 2026, by the Mayors' Council of Guam.

CERTIFIED BY:


JESSE L.G. ALIG
President and Mayor of Piti

ATTESTED BY:


LOUISE C. RIVERA
Secretary and Mayor of Tamuning