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I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
Thirty-Eighth Guam Legislature

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Ufisinan I Maga'håga
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Dear *Maga'håga* Leon Guerrero:

Transmitted herewith is **Resolution No. 132-38 (COR)**, “**RELATIVE TO REAFFIRMING *I LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN'S* (THE GUAM LEGISLATURE'S) CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON DEEP-SEA MINING IN PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, AND OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM) FOR 'COMMERCIAL LEASING FOR OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF MINERALS OFFSHORE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS',**” which was duly and regularly adopted by *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guahan* on January 9, 2026.

Sincerely,

Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

Enclosure (1)

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| OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR | |
| CENTRAL FILES OFFICE | |
| Rec'd By: | <u>Jomichael C. Quinata</u> |
| Date: | <u>1-12-26</u> Time: <u>4:36</u> PM |



I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
2025 (FIRST) Regular Session

Resolution No. 132-38 (COR)

As amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

Therese M. Terlaje
Sabina Flores Perez
Telo T. Taitague
Chris Barnett
V. Anthony Ada
William A. Parkinson
Vincent A.V. Borja
Joe S. San Agustin
Shelly V. Calvo
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Sabrina Salas Matanane
Christopher M. Dueñas
Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao
Jesse A. Lujan

RELATIVE TO REAFFIRMING *I LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN'S* (THE GUAM LEGISLATURE'S) CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON DEEP-SEA MINING IN PROTECTION OF THE LEGAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE OF GUAM, AND OBJECTING TO THE PROPOSAL AND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT (BOEM) FOR "COMMERCIAL LEASING FOR OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF MINERALS OFFSHORE THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS".

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

3 **WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan** (the Guam Legislature) on December 6,
4 2021, (in its 36th term) unanimously passed Resolution No. 210-36(COR) which called
5 on the United States to support and implement a moratorium on deep seabed mining in
6 the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to safeguard cultural resources, protect ocean
7 ecosystems from environmental harm and exploitive industry interests, and to ensure
8 the health of Guam's people; and

9 **WHEREAS,** on November 12, 2025, the United States Department of Interior's
10 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) issued a Request for Information (RFI)
11 as Docket No. BOEM-2025-0351 for the "Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental
12 Shelf Minerals Offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)";
13 and

14 **WHEREAS,** the BOEM RFI originally set the comment deadline for December
15 12, 2025, and following a joint letter from Governor David M. Apatang of the
16 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Lourdes A. Leon
17 Guerrero of Guam to BOEM's Acting Director, Mr. Matthew Giacona, requesting a
18 120-day extension of the public comment period on Docket No. BOEM-2025-0351, on
19 December 12, 2025, BOEM granted a 30-day comment period extension until January
20 12, 2026; and

21 **WHEREAS, I Liheslaturan Guåhan** (the Guam Legislature) finds BOEM's 60-
22 day comment period insufficient for full and meaningful consideration and input from
23 the people of Guam who together with the people of the CNMI will unjustly bear all
24 environmental, cultural, and social adverse effects of the proposed deep-sea mining;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI seeks interest in the commercial leasing of
2 approximately 35,483,044 acres along the length of the Mariana Islands chain for
3 offshore deep-sea mining operations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Guam is approximately 128 nautical miles from the proposed
5 mining area and is the southernmost island of the Mariana Islands chain, which consists
6 of Guam, Saipan, Rota, Tinian, Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, Sariguan, Guguan,
7 Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asuncion, and Maug; and

8 **WHEREAS**, deep-sea mining operations pose environmental and ecological risk
9 of irreversible harm to unique deep-sea ecosystems and large-scale biodiversity loss
10 even beyond the footprint of the mining in an area of exceptional biodiversity and
11 ecological sensitivity, potentially impairs the carbon sequestration process reducing the
12 ocean's ability to store carbon, and exacerbates climate vulnerability where stressors
13 already heighten ecological and atmospheric instability; and

14 **WHEREAS**, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* recognizes that the social, cultural, and
15 economic impacts of deep-sea mining will disproportionately harm the indigenous
16 Chamorro community of Guam, whose livelihoods, cultural identities, food systems,
17 and spiritual traditions are inseparable from the surrounding ocean, including loss of
18 fisheries, damage to sacred seamounts used in traditional navigation, and loss of
19 culturally significant ocean spaces; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI is blatantly and unjustly void of benefit-sharing,
21 consent, or compensation mechanisms to offset the harms of environmental, cultural,
22 and food-security losses to the people of Guam; and BOEM's proposal for deep-sea
23 mining near Guam without consent strips the Government of Guam and the people of
24 Guam of any control of decision-making, enforcement authority, stop-work authority,
25 or remediation requirements for damages;

26 **WHEREAS**, legal defects in BOEM's RFI under international and domestic law
27 include violations of Self-Determination and Permanent Sovereignty Over Natural

1 Resources; Failure to Obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); Duties to
2 Protect and Preserve the Marine Environment; the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Lands
3 Act (OCSLA); and the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA); and

4 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI is legally flawed, scientifically unsound, and
5 gravely disrespectful to the Indigenous peoples of the Marianas. Deep-sea mining in the
6 U.S.-asserted EEZ adjacent to the CNMI and Guam would impose irreversible
7 ecological harm and undermine Indigenous rights and cultural integrity, while
8 conferring no economic benefits to local populations. For these reasons, BOEM must
9 suspend this RFI and commit to a precautionary approach until the rights, interests, and
10 knowledge of the indigenous peoples—and the ecological integrity of the Marianas—
11 can be fully safeguarded; now therefore, be it

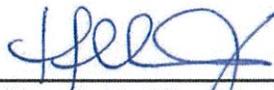
12 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
13 behalf of the people of Guam, reaffirming *I Liheslatura's* (the Guam Legislature's) call
14 for a moratorium on deep-sea mining in protection of the legal, economic, social,
15 cultural, and environmental rights of the people of Guam, and objecting to the proposal
16 and request for information (RFI) by the United States Department of Interior's Bureau
17 of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for "Commercial leasing for outer continental
18 shelf minerals offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands"; and be it
19 further

20 **RESOLVED**, given the overwhelming scientific uncertainty and legal
21 deficiencies impacting the people of Guam, and the disproportionate impacts on the
22 indigenous community of Guam, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the Guam Legislature) hereby
23 calls on the United States Congress, the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Ocean
24 Management to adopt a precautionary moratorium on deep-sea mining activities in the
25 EEZ in question; to immediately suspend RFI Docket No. BOEM-2025-0351; to
26 conduct a full environmental and cultural impact assessment incorporating traditional
27 knowledge, meaningful indigenous consultative and consent measures consistent with

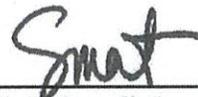
1 FPIC, evaluation of alternatives to deep-sea mining, including no action, and legal and
2 economic frameworks ensuring equitable treatment of the CNMI and Guam; and be it
3 further

4 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to,
5 the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the
6 Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; to the Honorable James
7 David Vance, Vice President of the United States; to the Honorable Chuck Grassley,
8 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate; to the Honorable Mike Johnson,
9 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; to the Honorable Marco Rubio
10 Secretary of the United States Department of State; to the Honorable Doug Burgum,
11 Secretary of the United States Department of Interior, to Matthew Giacona, Acting
12 Director of the United States DOI Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; to the United
13 Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea International Seabed Authority, and to the
14 Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* (Governor of Guam).

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2026.



Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary