











I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÁHAN
 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No.	Sponsor	Title	Date Intro	Date of Presentation	Date Adopted	Date Referred	Referred to	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE AUTHORS REPORT FILED	NOTES
132-38 (COR)	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Telo T. Taitague Chris Barnett V. Anthony Ada William A. Parkinson Vincent A.V. Borja Joe S. San Agustín Shelly V. Calvo Tina Rose Muña-Barnes	RELATIVE TO REAFFIRMING 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".	12/23/25 4:09 p.m.							

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

Resolution No. 132-38 (COR)

Introduced by:

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**RELATIVE TO REAFFIRMING 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 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I***
2 ***MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN*:**

3 **WHEREAS, *I Liheslaturan Guahan* (the Guam Legislature) on December 6,**
4 **2021, (in its 36th term) unanimously passed Resolution No. 210-36(COR) which called**

1 on the United States to support and implement a moratorium on deep seabed mining in
2 the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) to safeguard cultural resources, protect ocean
3 ecosystems from environmental harm and exploitive industry interests, and to ensure
4 the health of Guam’s people; and

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

10 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI originally set the comment deadline for December
11 12, 2025, and following a joint letter from Governor David M. Apatang of the
12 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Lourdes A. Leon
13 Guerrero of Guam to BOEM’s Acting Director Mr. Matthew Giacona requesting a 120-
14 day extension of the public comment period on Docket No. BOEM-2025-0351, on
15 December 12, 2025, BOEM granted a 30 day comment period extension until January
16 12, 2026; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature finds BOEM’s 60 day comment period
18 insufficient for full and meaningful consideration and input from the people of Guam
19 who together with the people of the CNMI will unjustly bear all environmental, cultural,
20 and social adverse effects of the proposed deep-sea mining; and

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

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

1 **WHEREAS**, deep-sea mining operations pose environmental and ecological risk
2 of irreversible harm to unique deep-sea ecosystems and large-scale biodiversity loss
3 even beyond the footprint of the mining in an area of exceptional biodiversity and
4 ecological sensitivity, potentially impairs the carbon sequestration process reducing the
5 ocean’s ability to store carbon, and exacerbates climate vulnerability where stressors
6 already heighten ecological and atmospheric instability; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature recognizes the social, cultural, and
8 economic impacts of deep-sea mining will disproportionately harm the indigenous
9 Chamorro community of Guam, whose livelihoods, cultural identities, food systems,
10 and spiritual traditions are inseparable from the surrounding ocean, including loss of
11 fisheries, damage to sacred seamounts used in traditional navigation, and loss of
12 culturally significant ocean spaces; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI is blatantly and unjustly void of benefit-sharing,
14 consent, or compensation mechanisms to offset the harms of environmental, cultural,
15 and food-security losses to the people of Guam; and BOEM’s proposal for deep-sea
16 mining near Guam without consent strips the Government of Guam and the people of
17 Guam of any control of decision-making, enforcement authority, stop-work authority,
18 or remediation requirements for damages;

19 **WHEREAS**, legal defects in BOEM’s RFI under international and domestic
20 law include violations of Self-Determination and Permanent Sovereignty Over Natural
21 Resources; Failure to Obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); Duties to
22 Protect and Preserve the Marine Environment; the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Lands
23 Act (OCSLA); and the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA); and

24 **WHEREAS**, the BOEM RFI is legally flawed, scientifically unsound, and
25 gravely disrespectful to the Indigenous peoples of the Marianas. Deep-sea mining in
26 the U.S.-asserted EEZ adjacent to the CNMI and Guam would impose irreversible
27 ecological harm and undermine Indigenous rights and cultural integrity, while

1 conferring no economic benefits to local populations. For these reasons, BOEM must
2 suspend this RFI and commit to a precautionary approach until the rights, interests,
3 and knowledge of the indigenous peoples—and the ecological integrity of the
4 Marianas—can be fully safeguarded; now, therefore be it

5 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guahan* (the Guam Legislature) does hereby
6 renew and reaffirm its call for a moratorium on deep-sea mining in protection of the
7 legal, economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of the people of Guam, and
8 does object to the proposal and Request For Interest (RFI) by the United States
9 Department of Interior’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) for
10 “Commercial Leasing For Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore the
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands”; and be it further

12 **RESOLVED**, given the overwhelming scientific uncertainty and legal
13 deficiencies impacting the people of Guam, and the disproportionate impacts on the
14 indigenous community of Guam, *I Liheslaturan Guahan* (the Guam Legislature) hereby
15 calls on the United States Congress, the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Ocean
16 Management to adopt a precautionary moratorium on deep-sea mining activities in the
17 EEZ in question; to immediately suspend RFI Docket No. BOEM-2025-0351; to
18 conduct a full environmental and cultural impact assessment incorporating traditional
19 knowledge, meaningful indigenous consultative and consent measures consistent with
20 FPIC, evaluation of alternatives to deep-sea mining, including no action, and legal and
21 economic frameworks ensuring equitable treatment of the CNMI and Guam; and be it
22 further

23 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules
24 certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of
25 the same be thereafter transmitted to President of the United States Honorable Donald
26 J. Trump, Vice President and Senate President Honorable James David Vance, United
27 States Senate Pro Tempore Honorable Senator Chuck Grassley, Honorable Speaker

1 Mike Johnson of the United States House of Representatives, Secretary Marco Rubio
2 of the United States Department of State, Secretary Doug Burgum of the United States
3 Department of Interior, Acting Director Matthew Giacona of the United States DOI
4 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the United Nations Convention on the Law of
5 the Sea International Seabed Authority, and to the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon
6 Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* (Governor of Guam).

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF
I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN ON THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 2025.**

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

V. Anthony Ada
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary