I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO 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
169-38 (COR)	William A. Parkinson	Relative to urging the federal government to treat the vulnerability of Guam's above-ground electric grid as a matter of disaster resilience and national security and to provide funding for the undergrounding and hardening of the island's power infrastructure.	4/23/26 2:34 p.m.							

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
2026 (SECOND) Regular Session

Resolution No. 169-38 (COR)

Introduced by: William A. Parkinson

Relative to urging the federal government to treat the vulnerability of Guam's above-ground electric grid as a matter of disaster resilience and national security and to provide funding for the undergrounding and hardening of the island's power infrastructure.

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

WHEREAS, Guam is a typhoon-prone island in the Western Pacific that is repeatedly exposed to destructive winds, torrential rain, flooding, salt intrusion, flying debris, and prolonged infrastructure disruption; and these are not hypothetical risks, but recurring and foreseeable threats to life, property, economic activity, and the continuity of essential civilian and military operations; and

WHEREAS, the recent destruction and disruption caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku on Guam and throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has once again demonstrated the severe vulnerability of the Marianas to major storm events, with Guam enduring prolonged damaging winds, widespread utility disruptions, emergency shelter operations, road hazards, and dangerous conditions for restoration crews; and

WHEREAS, the effects of severe typhoons in the Marianas do not end when the eye passes, but instead trigger extended humanitarian, infrastructure, and economic

consequences, including prolonged dangerous conditions, sheltering of residents, interruptions to government operations, strain on utilities, and delayed restoration of normal services, all of which underscore that resilient utility infrastructure is indispensable to public safety; and

WHEREAS, Guam's experience in Typhoon Mawar in 2023 likewise showed that even where parts of the system avoided a total blackout, severe typhoon conditions still inflicted widespread damage to transmission and distribution infrastructure, and GPA reported in oversight proceedings before the Guam Legislature that all 115kV transmission lines sustained serious damage and that most 34.5kV overhead transmission lines also sustained serious damage; and

WHEREAS, Guam Power Authority further reported to that oversight hearing that approximately seven (7) megawatts of load, mainly serving Andersen Air Force Base, remained energized throughout Typhoon Mawar through underground transmission lines and hardened facilities, and that customers served by underground transmission and distribution were restored more quickly, including Guam Memorial Hospital and much of Tumon Bay, thereby proving in real-world conditions that undergrounding and hardening materially improve resilience, continuity of service, and restoration speed during and after super typhoons; and

WHEREAS, this same oversight record established that substations fed through underground transmission lines were restored more quickly than those dependent on overhead transmission lines, further demonstrating that exposed aerial infrastructure remains the most predictable point of failure during destructive typhoon conditions on Guam; and

WHEREAS, the unavoidable lesson from successive typhoons is that an electric grid materially dependent on aerial transmission and distribution lines will continue to suffer repeated storm-related outages and repeated costly restoration cycles, because even where poles survive, overhead conductors, crossarms, transformers, insulators, and associated hardware remain vulnerable to wind damage, falling vegetation, debris strikes, moisture intrusion, and cascading line failures; and

WHEREAS, Guam Power Authority has already developed a preliminary infrastructure resiliency plan estimating that underground transmission lines and indoor substations would cost approximately Eight Hundred Thirty-Three Million Dollars ($833,000,000), critical distribution system mitigation would cost approximately Eight Hundred Thirteen Million Dollars ($813,000,000), other critical infrastructure resiliency projects would cost approximately Seven Hundred Thirty Million Dollars ($730,000,000), and undergrounding the remaining distribution system would cost approximately Four Billion Twenty-Five Million Dollars ($4,025,000,000), for a total preliminary resiliency estimate of approximately Six Billion Four Hundred One Million Dollars ($6,401,000,000); and

WHEREAS, Guam Power Authority has also expressly acknowledged that GPA's own ability to obtain funding for such investments is doubtful, and that if GPA were forced to secure such financing itself, power rates would likely double, if not more, making energy costs unaffordable for the people of Guam; and

WHEREAS, Guam's civilian ratepayer base is far too small to absorb, through utility bills, a multi-billion-dollar undergrounding and hardening program of this magnitude without inflicting severe and unacceptable rate shock on households, small businesses, working families, and the island economy; and it would be manifestly inequitable to require Guam's local ratepayers to shoulder alone the cost of infrastructure whose resilience is indispensable not only to local civilian life, but also to federal military readiness and national defense; and

WHEREAS, Guam Power Authority has recognized that it is the sole provider of energy for the island community, including military installations, and that Guam's power grid must be prepared for both national disasters and military contingencies, making the hardening of Guam's electrical system not merely a local utility concern, but a matter of federal strategic importance; and

WHEREAS, Guam's only islandwide electric utility powers not only homes and businesses, but also Guam Memorial Hospital, the Port Authority of Guam, airport operations, water wells, wastewater facilities, telecommunications, emergency shelters,

public safety operations, and other critical infrastructure upon which civilian continuity and emergency response depend, and any prolonged failure of this system creates immediate consequences for health, safety, commerce, and disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS, under federal law, the Department of Defense is an executive department of the United States, and the Secretary of Defense is the head of the Department of Defense, and the Department's stated mission is to provide the military forces needed to deter war and ensure the nation's security, and it would therefore be strategically incoherent for the federal government to harden runways, ports, missile defense assets, and defense facilities on Guam while leaving the sole islandwide electric system that powers and supports those assets dangerously exposed to repeated typhoon damage; and

WHEREAS, if the federal government expects Guam to function as a frontline platform for deterrence, logistics, and operations in the Western Pacific, then the federal government must also accept responsibility for helping fund the resilience of the core civilian infrastructure without which those missions cannot reliably function, including ensuring that the people of Guam are not forced through unaffordable utility rates to subsidize what is, in substantial part, a federal homeland security and national defense requirement; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the resilience of Guam's electric grid requires substantial federal investment, including direct appropriations, grants, cooperative agreements, hazard mitigation support, defense-related infrastructure assistance, and other lawful funding mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, federal support for grid resilience should prioritize, at minimum, those circuits and facilities serving Andersen Air Force Base, Naval Base Guam, Guam Memorial Hospital, the Port Authority of Guam, airport operations, water and wastewater infrastructure, emergency shelters, communications systems, and other essential public and defense-related facilities; and

WHEREAS, Guam should be made eligible, through legislation, appropriations, defense authorization measures, insular affairs funding, Federal Emergency

Management Agency mitigation programs, Department of Energy grid resilience initiatives, and other lawful mechanisms, for a long-term, multi-phase undergrounding and hardening program tailored to the island's unique typhoon exposure, geography, and strategic role; and

WHEREAS, the people of Guam should not be asked to shoulder alone the immense cost of constructing an electric system capable of withstanding threats that are both natural and strategic in nature; and

WHEREAS, the repeated battering of the Marianas by storms such as Mawar and Sinlaku makes clear that undergrounding and hardening Guam's electric grid is no longer a matter that can be deferred as a long-term aspiration, but must be treated as an urgent and necessary resilience investment for the protection of the people of Guam, the continuity of civilian government, the preservation of essential services, and the security of the United States itself; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Committee on Rules of *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on behalf of *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* and the people of Guam, urge the federal government to treat the vulnerability of Guam's above-ground electric grid as a matter of disaster resilience and national security and to provide funding for the undergrounding and hardening of the island's power infrastructure.

RESOLVED, that the Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee on Rules certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the President of the United States; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; the Majority Leader of the United States Senate; the Secretary of Defense; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Secretary of the Interior; the Secretary of Energy; the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; the Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs; the Honorable James C. Moylan, Delegate from Guam to the United States House of Representatives; and the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan.*

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES OF *I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN* ON THE DAY OF APRIL 2026.

FRANK BLAS JR.
Speaker

V. ANTHONY ADA
Chairperson, Committee on Rules

SABRINA S. MATANANE
Legislative Secretary