

I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
BILL STATUS

BILL NO.	SPONSOR	TITLE	DATE INTRODUCED	DATE REFERRED	CMTE REFERRED	FISCAL NOTES	PUBLIC HEARING DATE	DATE COMMITTEE REPORT FILED	NOTES
253-38 (COR) As amended by the Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure; and further amended on the Floor.	Therese M. Terlaje Sabina Flores Perez Chris Barnett Telo T. Taitague Shelly V. Calvo Joe S. San Agustin Tina Rose Muña-Barnes William A. Parkinson Sabrina Salas Matanane Christopher M. Dueñas Frank F. Blas, Jr.	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW §47113 TO CHAPTER 47, TITLE 10 GUAM CODE ANNOTATED RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING AND DETERRING SEABED MINING IN THE WATERS OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING SEA.	1/8/26 8:29 a.m. ^1/12/26 4:21 p.m.	1/13/26	Committee on Land, Environment, Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure.	1/13/26	4/1/26 8:30 a.m.	5/5/26 As Amended.	
	SESSION DATE	TITLE	DATE PASSED	TRANSMITTED	DUE DATE	PUBLIC LAW NO.	DATE SIGNED	NOTES	
	5/19/26	AN ACT TO <i>ADD</i> A NEW § 47113 TO CHAPTER 47, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING AND DETERRING SEABED MINING IN THE WATERS OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING SEA.	5/22/26	5/22/26	6/3/26	38-129	6/3/26	Received: 6/3/26 Mess and Comm. Doc. No. 38GL-26-2419	



UFISINAN I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

Transmitted via Email to: speakerblas@guamlegislature.org

June 3, 2026

THE HON. FRANK BLAS, JR., Speaker
I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan
38th Guam Legislature
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagåtña, Guam 96910

38GL-26-2419
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER
FRANK F. BLAS JR.

JUN 03 2026

Time: 4:20 pm
Received: Bm-

Re: Bill No. 253-38 (COR), "AN ACT TO ADD A NEW § 47113 TO CHAPTER 47, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING AND DETERRING SEABED MINING IN THE WATERS OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING SEA."

Håfa Adai Mr. Speaker,

Our island's connection to the ocean is inseparable from who we are as a people. From the very beginning, this administration has strongly opposed efforts to introduce deep sea mining to the Marianas. We met with federal officials and submitted formal comments to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) regarding their Request for Information for deep sea mining commercial leases in the Marianas. Over our objections, BOEM has rushed to identify a potential mining zone.

This Act bans the mining, extraction, and removal of minerals from Guam's territorial waters, and, with its passage, *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* has demonstrated to the world that we are united in our opposition. I sign this Act into law as **Public Law No. 38-129**, so that we may join the chorus of other jurisdictions that have banned deep sea mining by legislation or executive action. Just as American Samoa, California, Hawai'i, Oregon, Palau and Washington have done before us, we are sending a clear message that Guam will not support activities that threaten the health of our waters, our reefs, and the natural resources that sustain our community.

The threat to Guam is real. The Department of Agriculture testified that BOEM's potential mining zone comes as close as forty-six miles to Guam's coast and that BOEM had at least five companies expressing interest in mining our waters. With P.L. 38-129, Guam is choosing to act with caution and responsibility. My administration will continue to resist deep sea mining efforts using these new legal authorities and ensure Guam's voice is heard.

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
I Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam



38GL-26-2419
Messages and Communications

RECEIVED
COMMITTEE ON RULES
June 4, 2026

8:30 a.m.
Marie Crisostomo

Enclosure(s): Bill No. 253-38 (COR) nka P.L. 38-129
cc via email: *Honorable* Joshua F. Tenorio, *Sigundo Maga'låhen Guåhan*, Lt. Governor of Guam
Compiler of Laws

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

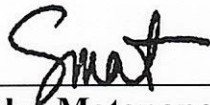
CERTIFICATION OF PASSAGE OF AN ACT TO *I MAGA'HÅGAN GUÅHAN*

This is to certify that **Bill No. 253-38 (COR)**, "AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 47113 TO CHAPTER 47, TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO PROHIBITING AND DETERRING SEABED MINING IN THE WATERS OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING SEA," was on the 22nd day of May 2026, duly and regularly passed.



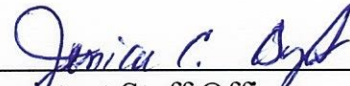
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Attested:



Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary

This Act was received by *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* this 27th day of May, 2026, at 5:10 o'clock P.M.



Assistant Staff Officer
Maga'håga's Office

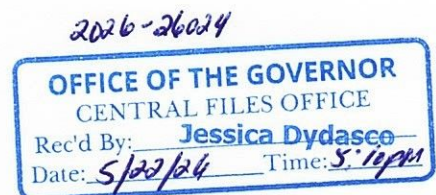
APPROVED:



Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero
I Maga'hågan Guåhan

Date: 6/3/2026

Public Law No. 38-129



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

Bill No. 253-38 (COR)

As amended by the Committee on Land, Environment,
Housing, Agriculture, Parks, and Infrastructure;
and further amended on the Floor.

Introduced by:

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

**AN ACT TO *ADD* A NEW § 47113 TO CHAPTER 47,
TITLE 10, GUAM CODE ANNOTATED, RELATIVE TO
PROHIBITING AND DETERRING SEABED MINING IN
THE WATERS OF GUAM AND THE SURROUNDING
SEA.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF GUAM:

Section 1. Legislative Intent and Findings. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* finds
that the marine environment unique and highly sensitive, supporting diverse and
interconnected ecosystems that are vulnerable to disturbance. Seabed mining

1 activities pose a significant risk of irreversible harm, including habitat destruction,
2 sediment plumes, and long-term destruction of deep-sea ecosystems.

3 *I Liheslatura* further finds that recognizing the social, cultural, and economic
4 impacts of deep-sea mining will disproportionately harm the indigenous CHamoru
5 community of Guam, whose livelihoods, cultural identities, food systems, and
6 spiritual traditions are inseparable from the surrounding ocean, including loss of
7 fisheries, damage to sacred seamounts used in traditional navigation, and loss of
8 culturally significant ocean spaces.

9 *I Liheslatura* finds that there are various jurisdictions that have taken steps to
10 mitigate or prohibit deep-sea mining within their shores and surrounding waters such
11 as Washington state, California, and Hawaii. In contrast, Guam currently lacks
12 strong enforcement mechanisms to effectively regulate or prevent these types of
13 activities.

14 Therefore, it is the intent of *Liheslatura* to mitigate the harms done by deep-
15 sea mining by protecting Guam and its surrounding waters. By prohibiting mining,
16 extraction, and removal of minerals from seabed in prohibited territorial marine
17 waters and provide enforcement authority to implement this prohibition.

18 **Section 2.** A new § 47113 is hereby *added* to Chapter 47, Title 10, Guam
19 Code Annotated, to read:

20 **“§ 47113. Seabed Mining Prohibition.**

21 (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the mining,
22 extraction, and removal of minerals from the seabed shall be prohibited in
23 territorial marine waters. Territorial marine waters under this section is
24 defined as all waters, seabed, and subsoil within three (3) nautical miles
25 seaward of the baseline of Guam, over which Guam exercises jurisdiction
26 pursuant to 48 U.S.C. §1421 and the Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. §§1301
27 et seq.) as amended.

1 (b) No permit shall be issued for or in connection with the
2 development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with the
3 mining, extraction, or removal of minerals from the seabed within territorial
4 marine waters.

5 (c) This Section shall not be construed to prohibit *bona fide*
6 scientific research or collections conducted by or on behalf of an educational,
7 scientific, or research institution or a governmental agency provided that prior
8 written notification is given to and no objection is issued by the Department
9 of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.

10 (d) Nothing contained in this section shall diminish, alter, or amend
11 any existing rights, privileges, or practices of the Native CHamoru people.

12 (e) As used in this Section, "minerals" means natural deposits of
13 valuable minerals, including, but not limited to, metals and placer deposits of
14 metals, nonmetallic minerals, gemstones, ores, gold, silver, copper, lead, iron,
15 manganese, silica, chrome, platinum, tungsten, zirconium, titanium, garnet,
16 phosphorous, polymetallic nodules, and cobalt-rich ferromanganese crusts."

17 (f) The usage of Guam's ports, harbors, anchorages, and territorial
18 waters as staging, supply, or logistics bases for any vessel engaged in, or
19 contracted to engage in, seabed mining operations in adjacent federal or
20 international waters are prohibited unless authorized by both the government
21 of Guam and relevant federal authority following full consultation with the
22 Department of Agriculture and affected communities.

23 (g) The Port Authority of Guam (PAG) may delay or deny approval
24 for port entry or departure for any vessel for which the agency has received
25 notice from a federal agency or other agency that the vessel or its crew has
26 engaged in activity that has violated any federal, state, or county law or rule
27 pertaining to environmental protection, maritime transportation, trafficking of

1 illegal contraband, or the collection or extraction of undersea minerals
2 unlicensed or unpermitted by the State; provided that the agency may grant
3 approvals for use of any commercial harbor facility by that vessel in
4 coordination with the federal agency or other agency. PAG is authorized to
5 act upon reasonable belief based on credible information obtained from any
6 source, including the Department of Agriculture Division of Aquatic &
7 Wildlife Resources to require vessel operators seeking entry to certify
8 compliance with applicable environmental and extraction laws as a condition
9 of port use and may deny entry or services for failure to provide such
10 certification.

11 (h) Any person who violates subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall
12 be subject to a civil penalty of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)
13 and not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) per day for each day the
14 violation continues. The Guam Department of Agriculture is authorized to
15 promulgate rules and regulations to implement and enforce this Section.”

16 **Section 2. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or its application to any
17 person or circumstance is found to be invalid or inorganic, such invalidity shall not
18 affect other provisions or applications of this Act that can be given effect without
19 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are
20 severable.