

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

Resolution No. 83-38 (LS)	Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco Legislative Session Hall Guam Congress Building December 5, 2025					
NAME	Yea	Nay	Not Voting/ Abstained	Out During Roll Call	Absent	Excused
Vice Speaker V. Anthony Ada	✓					
Senator Chris Barnett	✓					
Speaker Frank F. Blas, Jr.	✓					
Senator Vincent A.V. Borja	✓					
Senator Shelly V. Calvo	✓					
Senator Christopher M. Dueñas	✓					
Senator Eulogio Shawn Gumataotao	✓					
Senator Jesse A. Lujan	✓					
Senator Tina Rose Muña Barnes	✓					
Senator William A. Parkinson	✓					
Senator Sabina Flores Perez	✓					
Senator Sabrina Salas Matanane	✓					
Senator Joe S. San Agustin					✓	✓
Senator Telo T. Taitague	✓					
Senator Therese M. Terlaje	✓					

TOTAL

14

0

Not Voting/
Abstained

Out During
Roll Call

1

Absent

1

Excused

Yea

Nay

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT:



 Rennae V. C. Meno
 Clerk of the Legislature

I = Pass

I MINA'TRENTAI OCHO NA LIHESLATURAN GUÅHAN
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Resolution No. 83-38 (LS)

*

Introduced by:

Sabina Flores Perez
V. Anthony Ada
Chris Barnett
Tina Rose Muña-Barnes
Therese M. Terlaje
Telo T. Taitague
Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Shelly V. Calvo

Relative to the United Nations' declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives and recognizing its importance in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and revitalizing economic social development for Guam and the Oceanic region.

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

3 **WHEREAS**, the Limited Cooperative Association Act was recently enacted as
4 Public Law 37-147, which statutorily established the limited cooperative association
5 framework within Guam Law. A limited cooperative association is an alternative type
6 of business model that is an autonomous, unincorporated association of persons united
7 to meet their mutual interests through a jointly owned enterprise primarily controlled
8 by those persons, for any lawful purpose which permits combining ownership,

1 financing, and receipt of benefits by members. It is a type of cooperative that includes
2 patron and investor members; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations General Assembly on June 19, 2024, adopted
4 Resolution 78/289 declaring 2025 to be the International Year of Cooperatives
5 (IYC2025) under the theme “Cooperatives Build a Better World”, highlighting the
6 lasting global impact of cooperatives and emphasizing that the cooperative model is a
7 crucial solution for addressing various global challenges; and

8 **WHEREAS**, cooperatives are businesses owned and controlled by the very
9 members they serve. This member-driven model distinguishes cooperatives from other
10 types of enterprises, ensuring that decisions are made to balance both profit and the
11 needs and interests of their members and the communities they serve. Whether the
12 members are the customers, employees, or residents, they have an equal say in what the
13 business does and a share in the profits; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Seven Cooperative Principles are: (1) Voluntary and Open
15 Membership (2) Democratic Member Control (3) Members’ Economic Participation (4)
16 Autonomy and Independence (5) Education, Training, and Information (6) Cooperation
17 among Cooperatives (7) Concern for Community; and

18 **WHEREAS**, cooperatives play a significant role in advancing the
19 implementation of the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030
20 through the following:

21 1) empowering communities by providing financial access, economic
22 opportunities, and employment, helping lift people out of poverty (SDG 1: No
23 Poverty);

24 2) strengthening food systems by supporting small-scale farmers,
25 improving food distribution, and ensuring access to nutritious food through
26 agricultural cooperatives (SDG 2: Zero Hunger);

27 3) delivering affordable healthcare and wellness services, particularly
28 in underserved communities through health and social cooperatives (SDG 3:
29 Good Health and Well-being);

1 4) investing in lifelong learning through education, training, and
2 outreach, promoting skill development and civic engagement (SDG 4: Quality
3 Education);

4 5) promoting inclusive participation and leadership, empowering
5 women economically and socially (SDG 5: Gender Equality);

6 6) supporting access to clean water and proper sanitation through
7 democratic ownership and local accountability through utility cooperatives (SDG
8 6: Clean Water and Sanitation);

9 7) delivering clean, renewable power to communities, lowering costs
10 and reducing dependence on fossil fuels through energy cooperatives (SDG 7:
11 Affordable and Clean Energy);

12 8) creating stable, dignified jobs and helping grow local economies by
13 keeping profits and decision-making within communities (SDG 8: Decent Work
14 and Economic Growth);

15 9) investing in local infrastructure and support innovation in
16 sustainable industries tailored to community needs (SDG 9: Industry, Innovation,
17 and Infrastructure);

18 10) reducing income and opportunity gaps by distributing benefits
19 equitably and empowering marginalized groups (SDG10: Reduced Inequalities);

20 11) supporting inclusive urban development, environmental
21 stewardship, and social cohesion through housing, utility, and service
22 cooperatives (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities);

23 12) encouraging ethical production and conscious consumption by
24 aligning business practices with community values and sustainability (SDG Goal
25 12: Responsible Consumption and Production);

26 13) leading climate solutions by investing in clean technologies, local
27 food systems, and conservation efforts (SDG13: Climate Action);

1 14) promoting sustainable harvesting practices and protect marine
2 ecosystems through fisheries and marine cooperatives (SDG 14: Life Below
3 Water);

4 15) supporting sustainable land management, biodiversity, and
5 reforestation efforts through agricultural and forestry cooperatives (SDG 15: Life
6 on Land);

7 16) building a democratic culture, fostering inclusion, and increasing
8 public trust through member participation and transparency (SDG 16: Peace,
9 Justice, and Strong Institutions);

10 17) collaborating across sectors and borders to share knowledge,
11 mobilize resources, and scale sustainable development (SDG 17: Partnerships for
12 the Goals); and

13 **WHEREAS**, worker cooperatives provide dignified and democratic work
14 arrangements, offering vulnerable workers control over their schedules, wages, and
15 working conditions, especially in sectors known for low pay and labor abuse. Worker
16 cooperatives prioritize profit sharing amongst members rather than external
17 shareholders, thereby promoting economic justice. Worker cooperatives can be
18 structured to offer career pathways, training, and continuing education, enabling skill-
19 building and upward mobility for members; and

20 **WHEREAS**, cooperatives strengthen local economies by keeping profits and
21 jobs in the community, generating a local multiplier effect through hiring and
22 purchasing practices. Cooperatives build long-term economic resilience by helping
23 workers build wealth not only through wages but also through patronage dividends tied
24 to their labor contributions, proactive financial consulting, and other services; and

25 **WHEREAS**, cooperatives can address systemic barriers faced by people with
26 limited English proficiency, prior incarceration, or immigration concerns by designing
27 inclusive policies and support systems;

1 **WHEREAS**, partnerships between cooperatives and institutions, including
2 nonprofits, unions, and anchor organizations, can accelerate the development of
3 sustainable businesses rooted in community values;

4 **WHEREAS**, the cooperative model is flexible and adaptable, allowing members
5 to design workplaces that meet diverse needs, from offering eco-friendly services to
6 ensuring equitable pay for physically demanding work and access to health care;

7 **WHEREAS**, legal and financial frameworks already exist in many jurisdictions
8 to support cooperative development, including supportive statutes and nonprofit
9 incubators that can facilitate startup and scaling;

10 **WHEREAS**, local governments have the opportunity to play a critical role in
11 cooperative success by investing in cooperative development funds, offering technical
12 assistance, and providing incentives similar to those given to traditional businesses; now
13 therefore, be it

14 **RESOLVED**, that *I Mina'trentai Ocho Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* does hereby, on
15 behalf of the people of Guam, urge the Honorable Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, *I*
16 *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, and the Honorable James Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United
17 States Congress, to join with *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* in supporting the growth and
18 development of cooperative enterprises as a strategy for sustainable and equitable
19 economic development through the inclusion of cooperative business education and
20 training programs in workforce development initiatives, launching an education and
21 outreach campaign through the University of Guam and the Guam Economic
22 Development Authority (GEDA) in partnership with cooperative experts,
23 implementation of Public Law 37-147 that includes updating forms and staff training
24 within Department of Revenue and Taxation; and be it further

25 **RESOLVED**, that *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* encourages the formation of
26 cooperative working groups in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
27 (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, with the goal
28 of introducing and advancing cooperative legislation in their respective jurisdictions,

1 thereby fostering regional collaboration in sustainable economic development through
2 cooperatives; and be it further

3 **RESOLVED**, that the Speaker certify, and the Legislative Secretary attest to, the
4 adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable
5 David Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the
6 Honorable Teresa M. Filepin, Consul General of the Federated States of Micronesia;
7 the Honorable Victoriano April, Consul General of Palau; the Honorable James
8 Moylan, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; and the Honorable Lourdes A.
9 Leon Guerrero, *I Maga'hågan Guåhan*;

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

Frank F. Blas, Jr.
Speaker

Sabrina Salas Matanane
Legislative Secretary