

Email to Ms. Doris Santos

Resolution No. 51-34 (LS) - Therese M. Terlaje

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM MOVE FORWARD TO APPEAL THE RULING OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM TO ASSIST IN DEFENDING THE RIGHTS OF THE NATIVE INHABITANTS OF GUAM.

Resolution No. 52-34 (LS) - Therese M. Terlaje

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM NOT ENTER INTO A CONSENT DECREE WITHOUT APPROVAL OF THE GUAM LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM REGARDING THE RECENT THREATENED LAWSUIT PROPOSED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OVER THE CHAMORRO LAND TRUST ACT.

I want to provide

Buenas yan hafa adai ~~senators~~ ^{vice speaker & senators}

Thank you for allowing me to provide my testimony. My name is Alissa Eclavea from the village of Yona.

^{The last time I testified, I was 17. Its Great to see new, bright young leaders.}
I come here today, to provide my testimony as a young chamorro woman ~~and~~ ^{soon to be mother.} ~~soon to be mother.~~ ^{interesting now, when I was 17, I was fighting for my children before their even born.}

I cannot express to you, how much this pains me. Growing up, I always heard the elders talk about the military constantly taking our land and not wanting to give it back. There are lands that the military have that are not being put to use. You see buildings rotting and abandoned. How can they not think about the families who deserve to be there, ~~in their homes.~~

and now I'm a soon to be Mother

Before my grandmother went to heaven, she fought a long and hard battle to get our land back in tagachang. With the help of the community, Angel Santos, and our passion to fight for what is ours, we won.

My grandmother left me land so that I may teach my children to cultivate. To teach my children to respect the land. To teach them about our ancestors and how they lived on that soil and flourished. This is a way to teach my children to separate technology and ^{enjoying} ~~living~~ a chamorro life. I want them to be able to lay on a cot the way I did and rest while hearing the jungle sway. Hear the ocean far off in

② I want all chamorro children to experience what our land has to offer

the distance and let it lull them to sleep knowing they are safe. Knowing that they are secure.

① I want them to climb trees to pick fruit like I did.

I am not just hurt. I am ^{disappointed} angry. As a mother to be, it is my duty to fight for our children and the future generations to come. I want to pass on my grandmothers legacy by leaving land for my children and so forth. This land belongs to the chamorro people. ~~There will be none left if don't fight~~

Please, lets not forget how america took our land from our ancestors. The military would knock on our ancestors doors and if they could ^{not provide a signature} ~~not sign the paper~~, they would dip their thumb in ink and force them to give up their land. This was more than a thumb print, this was Their livelihood. Their way of surviving. It was illegal for America to confiscate lands that ^{were} ~~was~~ not a US territory. Hence making us an unincorporated U.S territory today.

I feel betrayed. And I know that I am not alone. Our ancestors ^{we are still suffering} ~~gruesomely were~~ forced to give up their land and today ~~was~~ ^{slap} to their faces with the recent peblcite ruling. Lets not disrespect their fight. Lets not disrespect the indeginous people of guam. Lets not disrepect my grandmother, esther Eustaquio eclavea who fought long and hard to provide this right to her family. It is our right.

I believe in our elected leaders. ~~Thank~~ ^{Thank} you for joining us in our fight.

I support bills 51 and 52.

③ My other half and I, have a dream...

where our children are playing in the yard... and im cooking Kactu w/ the vegetables from our farm. Having fresh calamansi for lemonade & fresh donni for Ferideri...

I want our chamorro children to be able to chase the same dream if ^{they} choose... But.

what happens if theres no more land?