

# Committee On Culture and Justice



VICE SPEAKER THERESE M. TERLAJE  
I Mina'trentai Kuåttro na Liheslaturan Guåhan  
34<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislature

## INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING • 4 p.m. • Thursday, September 7, 2017

Guam Legislature Public Hearing Room, Guam Congress Building, Hagåtña

### AGENDA

The intent of the Informational Briefing is to receive reports of the status and the historical, cultural, and environmental impacts of the Live-Fire Training Range Complex, and the potential implications for the original landowners of Ritidian/Litekyan and the surrounding areas.

- Reports from government agencies: Guam State Historic Preservation Office, Guam Department of Agriculture, Guam Coastal Management Program, Governor's Military Buildup Office
- Testimony from Guam Fishermen's Coop Association
- Testimony from Original Ritidian/Litekyan Landowners

### Background on Ritidian/Litekyan homelands:

- After World War II, the U.S. military condemned via eminent domain, privately held lands from families in Ritidian/Litekyan and the surrounding areas. Families were forced to relocate despite objections and without just compensation. Ritidian was established as a military area that restricted civilian access.
- After decades, the military deemed the Ritidian lands "excess", however, the return of the excess lands to the government of Guam was thwarted by the U.S. Congress' transfer of those lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2000. Ritidian lands have since been held in trust by the USFWS and used as a wildlife refuge and cultural center.

### The 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> Guam Legislatures enacted:

- **PL 22-63**, declaring that no wildlife refuge be established in Guam unless approved and enacted under Guam law
- **PL 22-111** challenged the designation of the Ritidian lands as a Critical Habitat or Wildlife Refuge.
- **PL 23-24** signed by acting Governor Madeleine Z. Bordallo, prohibited the Government of Guam from entering into any cooperative agreement with any U.S. federal government agency in regard to the Wildlife Refuge at Ritidian. The law stated, *"it is the policy of the government of Guam to seek the termination of federal ownership of real property in Northern Guam commonly known as the "Wildlife Refuge" and to seek the transfer of those lands from the control of the U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service to local authority for whatever purposes deemed appropriate by local authority, including the possible return to original land owners."*
- **Resolution 258-30** opposing land condemnation by the federal government for the purposes of the training ranges, reminding Congress that *"the final insult to the people of Guam came when the 385 acres of the former Naval Facility, Guam at Ritidian Point was declared excess in the 1990's and was grabbed quietly, without fanfare or advance notice by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rather than being returned to the original land owners via the Government of Guam."*

**Contrary to past Guam Legislative efforts to support the Ritidian homelands, in December 2014, Congress enacted H.R. 4402, allowing DoD use of Ritidian as a Surface Danger Zone for its Live-Fire Training Ranges.**

*If you require any special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or other special services, or for further information, please contact the Office of Vice Speaker Therese M. Terlaje at 472-3586 or at [www.senatorterlaje.com](http://www.senatorterlaje.com). Testimonies may be submitted directly to our office at the Guam Congress Building at 163 Chalan Santo Papa in Hagåtña Building, via fax at 472-3589, or via email at [senatorterlajegum@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajegum@gmail.com). This ad is paid for with government funds.*