



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

I Mina'trentai Sais na Liheslaturan Guåhan | 36th Guam Legislature
Committee on Health, Land, Justice and Culture

April 14, 2021

Transmitted via Electronic Mail:

Honorable Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
Guam's Representative to U.S. Congress
330 Hernan Cortez Avenue Suite 300
Hagatña, GU 96910
Michael.SanNicolas@mail.house.gov

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association

Hafa Adai Congressman San Nicolas,

I am writing to express my full support for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association and respectfully urge you to assist the Association in identifying and obtaining federal funding to complete the construction of its new facility and the correlating expansion of our local fishing industry.

The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association is one of the pillars of Guam's economic strategy for sustainability, which is especially crucial as Guam continues to diversify a vulnerable tourism industry. The need for diversification was emphasized during the COVID-19 pandemic, a time of economic instability when thousands experienced job loss or reduction of working hours.

In addition to food sustainability and the economic benefits of a fishing industry, renovation and expansion of the Fishermen's Co-op facility support inter-island commerce and tourism. The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association specializes in the sale of local seafood caught daily by local fishermen and aims to encourage the island's younger generations to continue the perpetuation of the local fishing tradition while serving as the center of information on local and federal policies and advocating for policies that support the local fishing community.

For over 44 years, the Fishermen's Co-op has been operating out of its *Hagåtña* facility in desperate need of full renovation from years of wear-and-tear which greatly affect the Co-op's daily operations, typhoons, and a need to expand capacity. *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* had passed laws pre-COVID providing modest funding mechanisms to ensure the refurbishment of the facility; such plans include a restored Fishermen's Co-op facility and an expansion of a new and safer fueling pier and docks that will be made available to commercial boats that service Guam's local and tourist water sports activities.

Guam Congress Building, 163 Chalan Santo Papa, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Tel: (671) 472-3586 | Fax: (671) 969-3590 | Email: senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com | www.senatorterlaje.com

**For transmittal of official Messages & Communications to the Guam Legislature to be distributed to all Senators,
please send to: speaker@guamlegislature.org*

Letter to Honorable Congressman Michael F.Q. San Nicolas
SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association
April 14, 2021

Construction of the new Fishermen's Co-op facility was impeded by major challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, competition for skilled workers causing an increase in projected costs, compliance with the flood zone regulations, requiring the new facility to be raised five (5) feet above ground level from the original design to comply with codes and poor soil conditions nearer the sea wall, which is being built to reinforce the shoreline, resulting in a more costly foundation design.

Guam's fisheries operate mostly on a small-scale basis, revealing that this industry is underutilized. With the construction of a new and improved facility, there is an opportunity for the development of a Guam longline fleet, and expanded capacity at every level, resulting in jobs and economic diversity in the heart of Hagåtña, Guam's capital.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to assist the Guam Fishermen's Co-operative Association in its quest to secure federal funding for the costly construction of a new and expanded facility, and I look forward to working with you to ensure completion of this goal.

Sincerely,



Therese M. Terlajé
Speaker
36th Guam Legislature