**Speaker Terlaje’s Resolution Supports Coordinated Efforts**

**to Expand Fisherman’s Co-op**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (April 26, 2021 – Hagåtña, Guam)** Speaker Therese Terlaje held a public hearing today to discuss Resolution No. 63-36 (COR), Relative to respectfully requesting the United States Congress to support Community Project Funding for the Construction of an expanded Guam Fishermen’s Co-op Facility and the correlating expansion of Guam’s community fishing industry.

The resolution was drafted in support of Congressman Michael San Nicolas’s efforts to secure much needed funding to assist in covering additional costs for necessary design changes which have impeded the ability of the Guam Fishermen’s Cooperative Association (GFCA) to complete the expansion of their facility. The design changes have been drafted to comply with flood zone regulations and to address poor soil conditions near the sea wall. In addition, new building would house related activities including a learning center, marine monitoring stations and vendor spaces for tenants to promote and supply the local fisheries industry.

Speaker Therese Terlaje, the author of the resolution, stated, “Our goal is to pass a resolution to support the Congressman’s efforts to secure Community Project Funding and grants through the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations for Fiscal year 2022, to assist the GFCA with completing the construction of its new facility and the correlating expansion of our local fishing industry.”

The realization of an enhanced and safer Fishermen’s Co-Op facility has been a longstanding mission of the GFCA led by the tireless dedication of President Manny Dueñas, association members, the local fishing community and lawmakers like Defuntun Ben Pangelinan.

Kin Flores, Chairman of the GFCA, stated, “we are confident the passage of Resolution 63-39 will demonstrate to [the] U.S. Congress that we are earnestly in pursuit of improving our island’s fisheries as a means of helping our local economy.”

“Expanding the Fisherman’s Co-op facility enhances food sustainability, the local fishing industry, inter-island commerce, and tourism. We must advocate for policies at the highest levels to identify and obtain support our local fishing community which ultimately benefits all our residents,” stated the Speaker.

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For more information, please contact Speaker Therese M. Terlaje’s office at (671) 472-3586 or via e-mail at [senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com](mailto:senatorterlajeguam@gmail.com).