



Office of the Speaker
THERESE M. TERLAJE

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

December 7, 2021

Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Chairperson
U.S. House Committee on Judiciary
2132 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
jerrold.nadler@mail.house.gov

Buenas yan Håfa Adai, Chairperson Nadler

I am writing to you to express the support of *I Mina'Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam Legislature) and the people of Guam for the passage of H.R. 5338 or the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2021” as introduced.

From 1945 to 1962, the United States conducted nearly 200 atmospheric nuclear weapons development tests in the U.S. and other locations. 67 of these tests were conducted in the Marshall Islands; these sites became known as the “Pacific Proving Grounds.” Although these tests were conducted in the Marshall Islands which are located 1,200 miles away from Guam, the nuclear power of these tests combined with radioactive dust particles traveling through westward flowing jet-streams and the U.S. military designating Guam as a ship decontamination stop, the island and its residents experienced significant nuclear fallout exposure. Despite declassified federal documents, environmental facts, scientific opinion, and sworn testimony proving the island’s exposure, Guam is still not recognized as a “downwinder” in the original Radiation Exposure Compensation Act.

It is with great hopes that the U.S. House of Representatives passes H.R. 5338 to provide the necessary recognition, compensation, and benefits to families in Guam impacted by radiation exposure resulting from U.S. nuclear tests. And on behalf of the people of Guam I thank you and the U.S. House Committee on Judiciary for scheduling a mark-up for the bill on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, which demonstrates real progress for this matter.

I will include with this transmittal letter a list of all that is in this packet for submission. Please reach out to my office if you or your committee need assistance with accessing or viewing any of the documents.

Un Dangkulo na si Yu'os ma'åse',

Therese M. Terlaje
Speaker, 36th Guam Legislature

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

December 7, 2021

Included in this packet from the 36th Guam Legislature:

1. Adopted version of Guam Resolution 178-36 (LS), which is a Resolution “Relative to expressing the support of *I Mina’ Trentai Sais Na Liheslaturan Guåhan* (the 36th Guam Legislature) for the passage of S. 2798 and H.R. 5338, introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on September 22, 2021, which would amend the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act” to include Guam as a “downwinder” of U.S. Pacific test sites, extend the fund claims period, and improve compensation and benefits.”

This Guam Legislative Resolution is not the first Resolution passed in support of congressional efforts to include Guam as a “downwinder” in RECA: Since 2003, the Guam Legislature has passed nine (9) Resolutions in support of congressional efforts like H.R. 5338. Guam Resolution 178-36 (LS) is the most recent and current Resolution, co-sponsored and passed by all Senators in the 36th Guam Legislature.

2. Digest and Transcription of the Public Hearing for Guam Resolution 178-36 (LS) which took place on Wednesday, November 3, 2021.

Senators, advocates, and members of the public attended this public hearing to understand the history of Guam and RECA, share testimony of local hardships endured because of radiation exposure, and vocalize support of U.S. Senate bill S. 2798, and U.S. House bill H.R. 5338.

3. Scanned copies of testimonies from advocates and members of the public in support of Guam Resolution 178-36 (LS), U.S. Senate bill S. 2798, and U.S. House bill H.R. 5338.

Personal information such as vital data and contact information have been redacted for privacy.

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