



I Mina' Trenta Na Libeslaturan Guåhan

The Thirtieth Guam Legislature

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February 2, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Hafa Adai! We were delighted to learn that you will be stopping in Guam next month, during a planned visit to our region. We hope it will be more than the standard presidential pit stop inside the Air Force fences. Guam's people will be honored by your visit, attentive to your thoughts, and ready and willing to show you and the First Lady our island hospitality. You will find that Guam is far more than a collection of military bases and tourist hotels. We truly hope that you can make time in your busy schedule to meet a few of your fellow Americans who live outside the military gates.

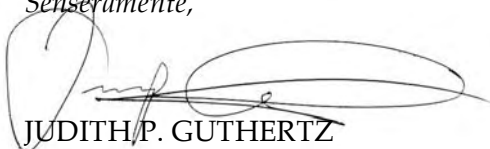
Guam's ongoing \$15 billion military buildup will pack 20+ years of growth into less than a decade. As a fellow islander, we ask for your leadership to guide the buildup properly. The importance of the buildup is clear: a strong U.S. military presence on the largest piece of American soil west of Hawaii is a powerful tool in preserving and protecting economic cooperation agreements.

History and our high enlistment rates prove that the people of Guam are undeniably patriotic and pro-military, but dissatisfaction over the Pentagon's buildup plan is spreading rapidly across our island. To make matters worse, we have yet to receive any of the promised assistance that is meant to cushion the impact of the buildup.

As chairpersons of our Legislature's committees with oversight on federal and military issues, we've joined with many of our citizens to call for the buildup to bring equal benefits to our civilian community. We do not want to see our culture, resources and infrastructure crushed and depleted by unprecedented growth without mitigating compensation. At the same time, this growth should not cost us our way of life.

A town hall meeting could help everyone gain a better understanding of the issues. We would like to have the same opportunities as our brothers and sisters on the mainland who often interact with you in this manner. Please don't ignore us, Mr. President, you are Guam's best hope for a truly beneficial buildup.

Sensemante,


JUDITH P. GUTHERTZ
CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON
THE GUAM MILITARY BUILDUP
AND HOMELAND SECURITY


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CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON RULES,
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