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LUJAN SECURES PATH FOR CHINA AIRLINES RETURN TO GUAM
Summer 2027 charter service targeted as first step toward restoration of regular flights

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Senator Jesse A. Lujan announced today that discussions with China Airlines have produced a clear pathway toward restoring service between Taiwan and Guam, beginning with potential charter flights in summer 2027 and followed by the restoration of regular scheduled service.

The progress follows direct discussions in Taipei between Lujan and China Airlines Chairman Kao Shing-Hwang and members of the airline's senior leadership team.

“This is why we came to Taiwan, to move the conversation from whether China Airlines could return to how we make that return happen,” Lujan said. *“We now have a real pathway in front of us: work toward charter service in summer 2027, prove the market, and build from there toward full scheduled service.”*

During the meeting, China Airlines representatives discussed the airline's ongoing fleet transition and aircraft availability. As new aircraft are delivered and crews complete the necessary training, additional flexibility is expected within the airline's existing regional fleet, including its Airbus A321neo aircraft.

Lujan said the period between now and summer 2027 will be used to ensure Guam is ready to support the route for the long term.

“The aircraft is only one part of the equation,” Lujan said. *“My job now is to work with China Airlines, our airport, GVB, and the private sector so that when the opportunity comes, Guam is ready. We cannot bring a route back only to lose it again because we failed to build the market around it.”*

Lujan will continue coordinating with China Airlines, the A.B. Won Pat International Airport Authority, the Guam Visitors Bureau, and tourism and business stakeholders on destination marketing, airport support, passenger demand, and the operational groundwork needed for the airline's return.



He said Guam must also build demand beyond traditional leisure tourism, including medical travel, education, business travel, meetings and conferences, investment, and other commercial activity between Guam and Taiwan.

“We cannot rebuild tourism by simply putting seats in the air and hoping people fill them,” Lujan said. “We have to create reasons for people to travel in both directions. That is how we turn an airline’s return into a permanent route.”

Lujan said the effort also reflects the need to keep advancing Guam’s economic priorities ahead of next year’s change in administration.

“Guam will have a new governor next year, but our economy cannot wait for an election or a transition,” Lujan said. “This is not about setting up one candidate or one administration for success. It is about setting Guam up for success. The next governor should inherit relationships that are already built, agencies that are already coordinated, and a plan that is already moving,” he added. “We should be laying that groundwork now.”

Lujan said the next phase will focus on turning the summer 2027 charter concept into an executable plan and using those flights as the foundation for regular service thereafter.

“This meeting moved us much closer to bringing China Airlines back to Guam,” Lujan said. “Now it is about execution. Summer 2027 gives us a target, and our job is to make sure those first flights succeed and become the beginning of something permanent.”

No Government of Guam or local taxpayer funds were used to support travel associated with this meeting.

PHOTO CAPTION

Senator Jesse A. Lujan, Chairman of the Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Customs, Utilities, and Federal and Foreign Affairs, meets in Taipei with China Airlines Chairman Kao Shing-Hwang and members of the airline’s senior leadership team to advance discussions on restoring service between Taiwan and Guam. Joining Senator Lujan were Chirag Bhojwani, Consultant to the Committee, and Felix Yen, Guam Visitors Bureau representative in Taipei and President of the American State Offices Association (ASOA).