

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSE PASSES THE 2024 NDAA WITH MANY POTENTIAL WINS FOR GUAM

(Washington, D.C.). On Friday afternoon, the House of Representatives passed the House version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which contains many victories and opportunities for Guam and the Indo-Pacific region, including over \$1.7 billion authorized spending for military activity and construction in Guam. This is a huge increase compared to the 2023 NDAA.

Among the many amendments adopted by members were those proposed by Guam Delegate James Moylan, and they include:

- Directing the Department of Defense (DOD) Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of entering a partnership with the Guam Power Authority (GPA) to enhance Guam's power grid.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of entering a partnership with Guam's utility entities to harden the infrastructure as it relates with readiness.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of constructing a defense access road.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of repairing infrastructure damaged by Typhoon Mawar, and this would include a collaboration with Guam's Mayors.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of military housing needs to minimize the impact on the local inventory.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of dredging at the Port Authority of Guam as it relates to the cost of shipping goods to the island.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to review the OCOLA rates for service members in Guam, with the intent of taking them back to the 2022 rates.
- Authorizing the DOD Secretary to waive cost share requirements for insular areas when it comes to DCIP grants.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to justify why he did not execute his authority in temporarily waiving the Jones Act for Guam, as it has been done for other jurisdictions impacted by major storms.
- Directing the DOD Secretary to determine the feasibility and costs of bringing back a permanent Ship Repair and Dry Dock facility to Guam, which would help create many jobs.
- Increases the number of nominees for Guam students into the United States Service Academies.
- Directs the DOD Secretary to report on the ACSA agreements as it relates to shared resources within the Pacific Island Nations.

These do not include the number of amendments co-sponsored by Delegate Moylan in reference to DOD policies.

In terms of spending authorizations, Delegate Moylan was instrumental in working with the committee staff to secure an additional \$100 million for the Guam Missile Defense (his amendment originally requested for \$147 million, but it was reduced during committee discussions) and over \$200 million in new military housing construction, to help reduce the impact in the local inventory.

While the extension on the exemption of the H2B visas for an additional 5 years was a key priority of Delegate Moylan, unfortunately, the waiver for his amendment was not provided by the House Judiciary Committee to include in the final House NDAA bill. Delegate Moylan was, however, successful in talking to Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono's team in introducing his amendment in the Senate's NDAA bill, and it has been included.

"We are excited to see Guam's heavy presence once again in the NDAA, and this goes back to the importance of being on the Armed Services Committee, participating in the process, attending meetings inclusive of the late-night ones, working with leadership, building relationships, being visible and active, and of course continuing to advocate for our island. I also want to thank our awesome legislative team, inclusive of our interns, for their hard work and staying on top of things to help secure some victories for Guam. While we did not get everything we wanted, we will continue to work towards finding other means to secure them," stated Delegate Moylan. *"The Direct Language inserted in the many asks would result in feasibility studies, a cost analysis, and its priority in terms of the military's readiness. This is a standard process prior to seeking funding, which is why we are optimistic in the funding opportunities we can strive for in 2024,"* added Delegate Moylan.

The next process is the passage of the Senate's NDAA, which will lead to the conference where a committee will iron out the issues which differ between the House and Senate's bills. Delegate Moylan is talking to HASC leadership to seek a seat as a conferee to represent the Indo-Pacific region.

"It would be helpful to sit as a conferee to ensure that our amendments are secured, that the H2b amendment remains, and also to ensure that any language in the Senate bill which addresses Guam but is not a priority, including the one addressing a briefing related to nuclear power, are removed," added Delegate Moylan.

END OF STATEMENT