

PORT USERS GROUP GUAM



November 19, 2008

The Honorable James V. Espaldon
29th Guam Legislature
Chairman, Committee on Tourism, Maritime, Military, Veterans and Foreign Affairs
155 Hesler Place
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Dear Senator Espaldon,

In the not too distant future, Guam can expect many opportunities to arrive on island. All of us are hearing many facts and figures about the planned military build-up and how it will affect the island and people of Guam.

Some of the numbers being discussed are just astonishing. Billions of dollars in new construction are expected over the next few years. Thousands of military personnel, civilians and workers are all coming to Guam to take part in the expansion.

But no matter how many people or how many construction projects end up moving to Guam or being built, one fact remains crystal clear. The Port of Guam needs a major modernization upgrade with or without the military build-up. Consider this: 90% of everything imported into Guam comes through the port. Your groceries, cars, gas, clothes, electronics all come through the port. It truly is the life-blood of Guam.

The Port of Guam has served the island well over the past few decades. It is the largest deep-water port in the Western Pacific. It currently handles more than 2 million tons of cargo each year. Nearly 500,000 people in the region depend on the port for their everyday needs.

In order to continue the progress that has already occurred at the port and to further move the Port of Guam, and with it the entire island of Guam forward, the Port Users Group of Guam supports the passage of the Port Authority of Guam's Master Plan Update.

The Port Users Group is comprised of the local managers of the companies that are customers of the Port Authority of Guam.

We have seen the progress of the board to modernize the port. These achievements include the development of the Port Master Plan Update and the recent Memorandum of Understanding with MARAD. Both of these noteworthy achievements will help facilitate Port modernization. Steady progress is important as the military moves cargo into Guam through the port.

This is not the time to change directions. This is the time to keep moving progress and development forward at the Port of Guam for the people of Guam.


The Port Users Group Guam supports the passage of the Port Master Plan Update.

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Testimony to Sen. James V. Espaldon
Port Users Group Guam

Sincerely,

The Port Users Group of Guam




Greg David, Ambyth Shipping



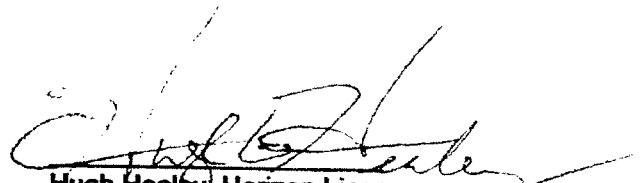
Ariel Dumapat, Inchcape Shipping



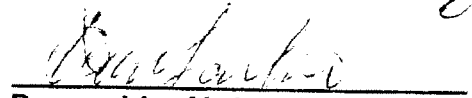
Richard Sablan, Marianas Steamship



Paul Blas, Sea Bridge Inc.



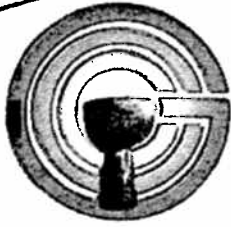
Hugh Healey, Horizon Lines



Desmond Aw, Mariana Express Lines

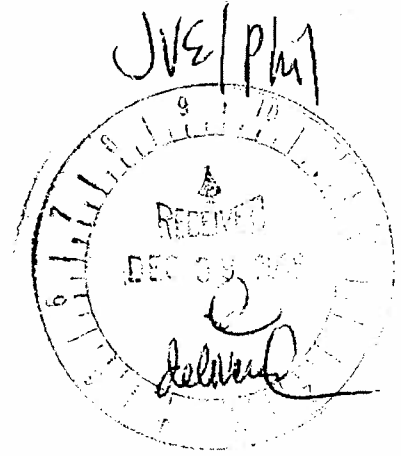


Len Isotoff, Matson Navigation



GUAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

December 8, 2008



SENATOR JAMES V. ESPALDON
Chairman, Committee on Tourism, Maritime, Military,
Veterans and Foreign Affairs
29th Guam Legislature
Sinajana Shopping Mall, Ste. 16B
777 Route 4, Sinajana, Guam 96926

Dear Senator Espaldon,

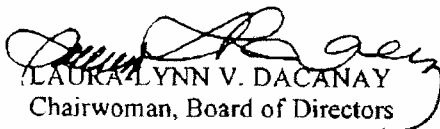
The Guam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors would like to thank you for your leadership role in overseeing public review of the Port Authority of Guam (PAG) Master Plan Update. A positive outcome of this review is critical for our Port of Guam to not only move forward with efforts to grow its capacity to support the military buildup, but more importantly, to support the natural growth of our local community.

The Chamber is behind the Port's initiatives for steadfast improvements because the loss of military cargo movements will leave a tremendous void and result in a commensurate increase in port costs for downtown businesses. These potential cost increases will ultimately be borne by Guam's residents.

We are encouraged that the Port Master Plan Update addresses major concerns such as acquisition of necessary equipment and modernization of facilities to improve overall Port operations. Moreover, Governor Felix Camacho's signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Port and Maritime Administration (MARAD) in June this year naming MARAD as the lead agency for the Port of Guam Modernization Plan is a major action step as it shows U.S. Government commitment to the buildup efforts that directly impacts our Guam community.

We urge you and your colleagues in the 29th Guam Legislature to approve the Port Master Plan as expeditiously as possible. The Chamber, through our Maritime Affairs Committee, stands ready to assist, and looks forward to being an active participant in carrying out solutions presented in the Port Master Plan.

Sincerely,


LAURA LYNN V. DACANAY
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

Cc: The Honorable Felix P. Camacho, Governor of Guam
Glenn Leon Guerrero, PAG General Manager