April 19, 2021

Professor Rafael Cox-Alomar
University of the District of Columbia

Invitation to Testify at Public Hearing Supporting House Res. 279

Dear Prof. Cox-Alomar,

Hafå Adai (Greetings from Guam)! I write to you today inviting you to testify at an upcoming Public Hearing that I will be hosting. As a daughter of Guam, I was delighted to hear that members of Congress are stepping up to correct an injustice that has been faced by many of my fellow Guamanians. As such, along with my colleagues in the 36th Guam Legislature, we immediately introduced Resolution 56-36 to express the utmost support of House Resolution 279 to end the discrimination faced by Americans in the territories. I write to you today to formally invite you to a Public Hearing on this Resolution and would be honored if you can join us.

As the granddaughter of Colonel Juan Muña, who organized the first Chamorro contingent of the Guam Militia that fought alongside the United States Military and who Fort Juan Muña is named after, the wife and mother-in-law of Veterans, and an even prouder mother and grandmother-in-law of servicemen, my family’s history and that of many Guamanian’s, tell a story of our allegiance to the United States Armed Forces. House Resolution 279 recognizes the sense of Pride we have in being Americans serving our country, and it corrects the wrong that was done by our predecessors. I have also invited governmental leaders, community advocates and allies, legal scholars and those who have passionately fought against the Insular Cases. It is my goal to have a productive conversation highlighting the challenges imposed on many Guamanians as a result of the Insular Cases. Should you wish to invite others to this hearing, please feel free to share this invitation with them.

I have scheduled the Hearing for May 5th, 2020 at 8 a.m. Guam time (May 4th, 2020 at 6 p.m. EST) in an effort to accommodate the time difference with the East Coast. I would be grateful to have you join us virtually, but I understand that you may have a busy schedule; should you wish to submit a pre-recorded digital or written testimony, I am more than honored to accommodate your request. I cannot thank you enough for your advocacy for Guam and our People. From the bottom of my heart, Un Dangkolo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase!

Stronger, TOGETHER!

Tina Rose Muña Barnes
Vice Speaker, 36th Guam Legislature