April 16, 2021

Hafa Adai Local2030 Islands Network Secretariat:

I am pleased to confirm that Guam supports the Four Principles of the Local2030 Islands Network:

- Identify local goals to advance the SDGs and strengthen long-term political leadership on climate resilience and net-zero emissions pathways.
- Strengthen public-private partnerships that support diverse stakeholders in integrating sustainability priorities into policy and planning.
- Measure SDG progress through tracking and reporting on locally and culturally informed indicators.
- Implement concrete initiatives that build island resilience and a circular economy through locally appropriate solutions, particularly at the water-energy-food nexus.

With this communication, I express our intent to continue the implementation of these principles. We are committed to engaging in collaborative island projects which advance the local implementation of the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. Guam will continue to make a clear statement of this commitment to our partners and the general public. The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability will serve as the focal point for the Local2030 Islands Network.

Our top priorities of collaboration with the Local2030 Islands Network are advancing the Guam Green Growth Initiative, continuing to develop its accompanying dashboard to track progress, and to work in collaboration with other island partners in the network to advance sustainable development locally for global action.

The implementation of the Guam Green Growth (G3) Initiative is a demonstration of our commitment to the four principles of the Local2030 Islands Network. In September 2019, Lt. Governor Joshua Tenorio and I promulgated Executive Order 2019-23 to create the G3 Working Group comprised of 97 government, academia, private sector, non-profit, and youth members to transition Guam toward a sustainable future. In partnership with the University of Guam (UOG), the G3 Working Group is facilitated through the Center for Island Sustainability. Lt. Governor
Joshua Tenorio and UOG Center for Island Sustainability Director Austin Shelton co-chair the G3 Steering Committee. The steering committee coordinates the implementation of the G3 Action Framework. Formally adopted in September 2020, the framework is a 10-year strategy with hundreds of goals and action items that scale and accelerate locally and culturally relevant sustainability solutions in alignment with the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals. The G3 Action Framework is Guam’s most comprehensive action plan ever created to achieve a sustainable future for the island. The G3 Steering Committee reports progress on the framework twice a year at the G3 Biannual Meeting. I preside over the biannual meetings with UOG President Thomas Krise.

The G3 Action Framework is focused on five categories of action—1) Healthy and Prosperous Communities; 2) Educated, Capable, and Compassionate Island; 3) Sustainable Homes, Utilities, and Transportation; 4) Thriving Natural Resources; and 5) Sustainable Alliances. Cross-cutting elements are incorporated into all categories—climate action, resilience, public engagement, policy, and the core CHamoru values of respect, cooperation and treating others with kindness, generosity, and dignity. Progress made in achieving these goals is reflected in our G3 Dashboard, an online portal that provides transparency and public access to data on all our projects, developed in collaboration with Hawai’i Green Growth and built using Esri software.

Becoming a founding member of the Local2030 Islands Network in 2019 was a critical step in expediting Guam’s progress in sustainable development. Along with international recognition, increased access to resources, programs, and collaborative projects, the support of the network has generated public confidence in this endeavor and has encouraged our various sectors to join the cause. Committing to sustainable development is of paramount importance during this Decade of Action amid the environmental, climate, and health crises we face together. We have a shared interest in overcoming these obstacles and a shared responsibility to take action. As a founding member of the Local2030 Islands Network and an adopter of the concept of green growth, I implore other island leaders to join this undertaking to accelerate our progress for a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future. I very look forward to working in collaboration with existing and future island members of the network to advance this very important cause.

Senseramente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga’hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam