

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Stephen Ehikian
Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator
General Services Administration
1800 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405

Re: Urgent Request to Maintain USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services Lease on Guam

Dear Secretary Rollins and Acting Administrator Ehikian,

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, write to express my deep concern regarding the recent termination of the lease for the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services office in Guam (WS-Guam). This termination has the potential to significantly disrupt mission-critical activities that are essential for biosecurity in the Pacific. WS-Guam's biosecurity mission not only protects Guam's ecosystems, but also protects the biosecurity of our regional allies, Pacific territories, Hawai'i, and beyond. I urge your immediate attention to this matter and request that the lease be reinstated to ensure the continuity of these vital operations.

The WS-Guam program plays a critical role in safeguarding public safety, national security, and environmental integrity through its work in:

- **Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Control and Interdiction:** This initiative protects both military and civilian infrastructure, preventing the spread of BTS to other Pacific islands, where they could cause ecological devastation and economic harm. BTS control directly supports military readiness in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Bird Air Strike Hazard (BASH) Management:** This program is essential for reducing wildlife-related aviation risks, ensuring the safety of military and civilian flights. Similar efforts are conducted on military bases in Japan and the Republic of Korea.
- **Feral Swine Control:** This activity mitigates risks associated with wildlife disease transmission to both humans and livestock, protecting agricultural and environmental resources.
- **Predator Control for the Department of the Navy (DON):** These efforts are crucial for maintaining military readiness and national security objectives in INDOPACOM.

The WS-Guam facility currently houses 47 full-time employees (FTEs), firearms storage, a variety of sensitive field equipment, and specialized equipment, including a USDA-owned OH-6A Cayuse helicopter. The space occupied is critical for operational efficiency and effectiveness given the scale of the programs managed from this location. Without the recission of the lease termination, WS-Guam will face significant challenges in carrying out its mission, risking Pacific biosecurity.

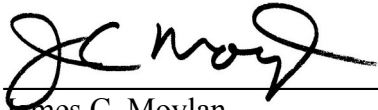
Recently, it has come to our attention that GSA has been terminating leases across multiple agencies in an effort to consolidate office space. However, the unique operational requirements of WS-Guam, along with limited space, make relocation within other civilian agency spaces impractical. Additionally, Department of Defense

(DOD) in-kind facilities are already under significant strain as Guam becomes a strategic focal point in national security efforts, with an expected increase in 36,000+ DOD personnel over the next 10 years.

Without an alternative facility, WS-Guam's ability to carry out its mission will be severely hampered, potentially leading to increased ecological and economic threats across the Pacific region. Given the critical nature of WS-Guam's work and the lack of feasible alternatives, we respectfully request that the lease termination be reconsidered and rescinded. Preserving this lease is vital to ensuring continued biosecurity and safety across the region. Your immediate intervention is needed to prevent disruptions to these essential programs.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter. Your leadership and commitment to responsible stewardship of the United States' resources is admirable, and we look forward to your prompt response.

Respectfully,



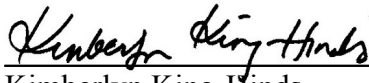
James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



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Radewagen
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Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Kimberlyn King-Hinds
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Ed Case
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