

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2008

H. J. R. 6-30

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A BEACH ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AND THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009.

1 **WHEREAS**, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, U.S. Public
2 Law 111-5 (hereinafter, "Act"), is now the law of the land; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Act establishes a program of federal capital grants to states and
4 territories for infrastructure investments which will improve multimodal transportation
5 alternatives and create energy efficient planning and zoning guidelines and encourage
6 public-private partnerships that provide for the financing, design, construction, operation,
7 and maintenance of local alternative transportation services; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress, through the Act, appropriated funding for the
9 United States Department of Energy (DOE) to award formula-based grants to states, U.S.
10 territories, units of local government, and Indian tribes under the Energy Efficiency and
11 Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the portion of that grant for the Commonwealth of the Northern
13 Mariana Islands (CNMI) is \$9.6 Million; and

14 **WHEREAS**, primary objectives of the Act are to contribute to economic recovery
15 efforts by creating and/or saving jobs, advancing strategic transportation goals that ensure
16 safe and efficient transportation, building a foundation for future economic
17 competitiveness, promoting energy efficiency and environmental quality, and supporting
18 interconnected livable communities; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Beach Road is a major thoroughfare on the island of Saipan,
20 encompassing six villages, and stretching from the Village of Garapan to the Village of
21 San Antonio; and

1 **WHEREAS**, seventy four percent (74%) of the available visitor accommodations
2 on Saipan are along Beach Road, with the Marianas Visitors Authority projecting nearly
3 one million visitors over the next three years, the majority of whom are likely to stay or
4 travel along Beach Road; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI is wholly dependent upon fossil fuel imports for its energy
6 needs, and is subject to potential supply disruptions or price spikes; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Governor of the CNMI has expressed his support for a Beach
8 Road Corridor Improvement Project, in a letter dated August 7, 2009, that would include
9 energy efficient transportation options and zoning guidelines that would strengthen and
10 preserve the cultural heritage of the island in order to attract quality investment from
11 around the world; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Saipan Zoning Office has reported to the Sixteenth Northern
13 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that energy efficient land use guidelines that are
14 predictable, coordinated, and in accordance with smart growth and environmental
15 stewardship principles can help promote economic development and mobility for citizens,
16 and that improved planning and zoning can help attract desirable investment to integrate
17 the CNMI into the global economy; and

18 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of Representatives of
19 the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring, that
20 the Legislature encourages the Saipan Zoning Office, the Department of Lands and
21 Natural Resources, the Department of Public Works, the Department of Public Lands, the
22 Division of Environmental Quality, the Coastal Resource Management Office, the
23 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the
24 Department of Commerce, to work in partnership to develop a Beach Road Corridor
25 Master Plan and eligible projects, and to enter into stakeholder agreements, develop
26 comprehensive project management plans, and aggressively compete for available federal
27 funds; and

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature encourages the tourism and
29 hospitality industry to work cooperatively with local officials to achieve these public
30 policy objectives; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature encourages the Governor
2 and the CNMI Department of Commerce, in concert with the CNMI Delegate Gregorio
3 Kilihi Camacho Sablan, to work with the United States Department of Energy to develop
4 cooperative agreements and letters of intent to develop and implement a program of
5 projects and corridor plans; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOVLED**, that the Speaker of the House of
7 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify, and the House Clerk and
8 Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest, to the adoption of this joint resolution and
9 thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit certified copies to the Honorable Benigno R.
10 Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands; the Honorable
11 Gregorio Kilihi Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives;
12 the Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy; the Honorable
13 Ken Salazar, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; Mr. Victor Barrett,
14 Administrator of the Saipan Zoning Office; Dr. Ike Dela Cruz, Secretary of the CNMI
15 Department of Lands and Natural Resources; Mr. Diego Songsong, Secretary of the
16 CNMI Department of Public Works; Mr. John del Rosario, Secretary of the Department
17 of Public Lands; Mr. Frank Rabauliman, Director of the Division of Environmental
18 Quality; Mr. John Joyner, Director of the Coastal Resources Management Office; Mr.
19 Tony Muna, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; Mr. Perry
20 Tenorio, Managing Director of the Marianas Visitors Authority; Mr. Michael Ada,
21 Secretary of the Department of Commerce; Mr. Kyle Calabrese, Executive Director of the
22 Saipan Chamber of Commerce; and Mr. Nick Nishikawa, President of the Hotel
23 Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prefiled: 9-4-09

Date: 9/4/09

Introduced By: [Signature]
Rep. Arnold I. Palacios

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by: [Signature]
House Legal Counsel

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