

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

_____ **Session, 2023** **Y.C. Comm. Res. No. 19-** _____

A YOUTH CONGRESS COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION

Remembering the late Honorable Candido “Candy” Babauta Taman for his legacy of Chamorro/Carolinian music and his desire to protect the culture and language of the Marianas

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman was born on
2 January 9, 1948 to the late Vicente Olaitiman Taman and Soledad Iguel Babauta;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman attended
5 elementary, middle, and high school on Saipan and received his General Education
6 Development (GED) at the University of Guam in 1974; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman showed his
8 interest in learning Chamorro and Carolinian folk songs from his elders; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman began his music
10 career at the young age of seven where he and his band “The Vultures” won three
11 consecutive Battle of the Bands competitions from 1967 to 1970; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman and fellow
13 musicians Frank “Bokonggo” Pangelinian, Herbert Del Rosario, and Quirino
14 Aquino formed the famous local band Tropicsette; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman and his band
16 Tropicsette began writing and performing Chamorro and Carolinian songs in order
17 to protect the culture and identity of the Northern Marianas Islands; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1981 the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman and
19 fellow Tropicsette bandmates Frank “Bokonggo” Pangelinian and Quirino Aquino

1 formed their own studio band named, “Chamolinian” in reference to the Chamorro
2 and Carolinian heritage of Saipan; and

3 **WHEREAS**, similar to Tropicsette, the band Chamolinian composed
4 Chamorro and Carolinian songs in order to protect the culture of the Northern
5 Mariana Islands; and

6 **WHEREAS**, after establishing himself as a beloved singer and songwriter
7 of the Marianas, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman began his solo career
8 producing many albums that can be heard all across the Marianas; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman was
10 elected to represent election district four in the House of Representatives of the
11 Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and

12 **WHEREAS**, during his term, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman
13 authored Public Law 15-96 which empowered and enhanced the programs of the
14 Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman served as the
16 Executive Director of Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission in 2004,
17 founding member and Interim President of the CNMI Chapter of Pacific Islands
18 Bilingual Bi-Cultural Association (PIBBA), Special Assistant to the Secretary of
19 Lands and Natural Resources in 1995, Chairman of the Chamorro/Carolinian
20 Language Policy Commission in 1994, Vice Chairman of the Council for Arts and
21 Culture in 1994; and

22 **WHEREAS**, as a musician and public servant, the late Honorable Candido
23 Babauta Taman’s main goal was to protect the identity, language, and culture of the
24 Marianas; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman used his platform
26 to influence the Chamorro/Carolinian culture by producing songs such as
27 “Commonwealth”, “Palasyon Riko”, “Kutturán Chamolinian” and many others;
28 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman wrote other hit
2 songs such as “Mount Pagan”, “Kuronan Flores”, “Beri-Beri”, “Yigo Akasasa”,
3 “Galaidi Sin Layak”, “Patron Marianas”, “Chevy” and many others; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on June 21, 2023 in his residence in Toto Gardens, Guam, the
5 Honorable Candido Babauta Taman was reunited with his creator at the age of 75;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, with his passing, he leaves behind his wife Mary Ellen Wertz,
8 their children, grandchildren, family members, friends, and many fans who follow
9 him and were inspired by his music; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Candido Babauta Taman leaves behind his
11 long legacy of Chamorro/Carolinian music and serves as an example to the people
12 of the Marianas to protect the land, culture, language, and our identity as Chamorros
13 and Carolinians; and

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Nineteenth
15 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress extends their
16 deep and heartfelt condolences to the family of the late Honorable Candido Babauta
17 Taman, that the Youth Congress remember his legacy of music and desire to protect
18 the culture and identity of the Marianas; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
20 designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original
21 copy of this Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution to the family of the late
22 Honorable Candido Babauta Taman; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
24 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
25 adoption of this commemorative resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified
26 copy to the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives (23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable
28 Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, President of the Senate (23rd Northern Marianas
29 Commonwealth Legislature); the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the

1 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili
2 Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (118th United
3 States Congress).

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____



Senator Ayden Sean C. Yumul