

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

5TH REGULAR Session, 2024

Y.C. Res. No. 19- 11

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Memorializing the Life and Service of the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona, Resident Executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office, and extending condolences to his family on his passing.

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona was born on January
2 28, 1976 on the island of Rota, to the late Raimundo Hocog Manglona and Isabel
3 Songao; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as a young person, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona dealt
5 with challenges that were factors in developing the professional he would become
6 in his adult life; and

7 **WHEREAS**, after receiving his General Educational Development
8 (G.E.D.) certificate, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona strived to further his
9 educational growth, by attaining an associate's degree in Liberal Arts and a
10 bachelor's degree in elementary education from Northern Marianas College, and a
11 master's degree in general education from Framingham State University; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona began his legacy of
13 advocacy and educational advancement in his professional career, by working for
14 the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research & Extension Education
15 Services (NMC-CREES) program, a division in which he served as Dean; and

16 **WHEREAS**, after leaving NMC-CREES, the late Ross Hugh Songao
17 Manglona continued in promoting the importance of higher education through

1 vocational training by serving as the Continuing Education & Workforce
2 Development for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI); and

3 **WHEREAS**, citing his professional experience in advocating for higher
4 education, vocational education, and cultural practices, in 2021 the late Ross Hugh
5 Songao Manglona was hired by the community organization 500 Sails to serve as
6 its director for the Cultural Maritime Training Center, tasked with such
7 responsibilities as grant writing and research as well as the implementation of the
8 Tãotão Tãsi Maritime Career Pathways Project; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on February 23, 2023, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona
10 was appointed by Governor Arnold I. Palacios to serve as the Resident Executive
11 for the Indigenous Affairs Office, and was confirmed by the Senate to serve in that
12 capacity on March 29, 2023; and

13 **WHEREAS**, as the Resident Executive for the Indigenous Affairs Office,
14 the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona worked tirelessly in fulfilling the duties of
15 his position by advocating for those who needed assistance or a listening ear, and
16 worked collaboratively with community leaders, such as the Executive Assistant
17 for Carolinian Affairs in addressing community and cultural matters both on-island
18 and within the region; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona served as a true
20 advocate for the indigenous culture of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
21 Islands; and

22 **WHEREAS**, despite his short time as Resident Executive, the late Ross
23 Hugh Songao Manglona still managed and did his very best to ensure the protection
24 and empowerment of the Indigenous culture of the Marianas; and

25 **WHEREAS**, on November 27, 2023, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona
26 passed away at the age of 47; and

27 **WHEREAS**, in his passing, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona leaves
28 behind his spouse, Ms. Julie A. Ogo, their children: Christian, Julian, Tristan, Ian,
29 Ethan, and his daughter Breanna Isabel; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona will additionally be
2 missed by many friends, colleagues, former and current employees, students and
3 young professionals who have been inspired by his tenacity and work ethic, and
4 helped through whatever way shape or form through his humility and generosity;
5 and


6 **WHEREAS**, as an advocate for the protection of the Indigenous, Chamorro
7 language and culture, and public servant, the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona
8 inspires the youth to continue to grow and expand their indigenous language and to
9 encourage public service within the youth; and

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Nineteenth
11 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, that the Youth
12 Congress commends the Life and Service of the late Ross Hugh Songao Manglona,
13 and extends its condolences to his family on his untimely passing; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
15 designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original
16 copy of this Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution to the Children of the late
17 Ross Hugh Songao Manglona; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
19 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
20 adoption of this commemorative resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified
21 copy to the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives (23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable
23 Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, President of the Senate (23rd Northern Marianas
24 Commonwealth Legislature); the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the
25 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili
26 Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (118th United
27 States Congress); the Honorable Ramon B. Camacho, Mayor of Saipan; the
28 Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan; the Honorable Valentin
29 Taisakan, Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands, the Honorable Aubry M. Hocog,

1 Mayor of Rota; Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., President of Northern Marianas
2 College; Jodina Attao, Chief Executive Office of the Northern Marianas Technical
3 Institute; and Emma and Peter Perez, Co-Founders of 500 Sails, Inc..

Date: 1/09/2024 Introduced by: 
Senator Ayden Sean C. Yumul