



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

CELINA R. BABAUTA

CHAIRPERSON

JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 22-7
DATE: APRIL 22, 2021
RE: H.B. 22-28

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

H. B. No. 22-28:

“To rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI”; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that H. B. NO. 22-28 be passed by the House in the form of House Draft 1.

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 22-28 is to amend 1 CMC §20175 to rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI” and for other purposes.

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B. Amendments:

In addition to non-substantive technical amendments, the Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of House Bill No. 22-28.

- Page 1
 - Line 1, after the word “that”:
 - **Delete** “there are people in this great”
 - **Insert** “the”
 - Line 2, after the word “Commonwealth”:
 - **Delete** “whose character of life”
 - Line 2, after the word “is”:
 - **Delete** “indelibly”
 - Line 3, after the word “of”:
 - **Delete** “those”
 - Line 3, after the word “who”:
 - **Delete** “would”
 - Line 4, after the word “fields”:
 - **Insert** the letter “s”
 - Line 5, after the word “whose”:
 - **Delete** “main”
 - Line 10, after the word “independently”:
 - **Delete** “has”
 - **Insert** “have”
 - Line 10, after the underlined word “have”:
 - **Delete** “indelibly”
 - Line 10, after the word “our”:
 - **Delete** “great”
 - Line 11, after the last name “Igitol”:
 - **Delete** “has had”
 - **Insert** “held”
 - Line 12, after the word “to”:
 - **Delete** “her”

- Line 12, after the word “her”:
 - **Delete** “lives”
 - **Insert** “life”
- Page 2
 - Line 4, after the word “(PSS)”:
 - **Delete** “at”
 - **Insert** “from”
 - Line 4, after the word “retired”:
 - **Delete** “from”
 - Line 6, after the word “organization”:
 - **Delete** “who”
 - **Insert** “that”
 - Line 7, after the word “services”:
 - **Delete** the comma
 - **Insert** “and”
 - Line 7, after the word “interest”:
 - **Delete** “and pathway”
 - Line 11, after the word “and”:
 - **Delete** “self-effacing”
 - Line 12, after the word “spread”:
 - **Delete** “ing”
 - Line 16, after the word “disabilities”:
 - **Delete** “as well as”
 - **Insert** “including”
 - Line 16, after the word “students”:
 - **Delete** “with disabilities”
 - **Insert** “in the Northern Mariana Islands”
 - Line 17, after the last name “Igitol”:
 - **Insert** “’s”
 - Line 19, after the word “in”:
 - **Delete** “this great”
 - **Insert** “the”

- Line 20, after the word “is”:
 - **Delete** “just and”

C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the Center for Living Independently within the CNMI (CLI-CNMI) is a federaly funded agency whose mission is to ensure rights of people with disabilities to live independently and fully integrated within the community. Originally opened as a satellite office for the Hawaii Center for Living Independently in 2001, CLI-CNMI became an independent agency in 2005 with an established board of directors and executive director. Despite becoming an independent agency, CLI-CNMI continues to carry their mission by providing opportunities for people with special needs to live independently and integrate themselves in society. Since its inception, CLI-CNMI continues to be a shining light of advocacy for people with such needs. The services they provide to the community throughout the years are deemed honorable and indicates their significance within the CNMI.

Your Committee finds that the establishment of such a well-founded agency was made possible by the efforts of Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol, the first Executive Director of CLI-CNMI. After retiring from the Public School System, Mrs. Igitol continued to commit herself to public service, especially as an advocate for people with special needs. With the aforementioned establishment of CLI-CNMI in 2001, Mrs. Igitol was hired as its Satellite Office Director. Soon after, Mrs. Igitol was able to form a small council would later help establish CLI-CNMI as an independent agency. Through her efforts, in 2005, CLI-CNMI was able to become an independent agency separate from the main branch Hawaii Centers for Living Independently with Mrs. Igitol serving as the first Executive Director. She would go on to hold such position beginning from May 2005 until resigning in September 2017 due to health issues. Mrs. Igitol passed away peacefully in her home on July 20, 2020. As a token of our gratitude for her hard work and dedication, your Committee finds that it would be appropriate to rename CLI-CNMI’s structure as the “Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently within the CNMI” to pay tribute for all her contributions as a staunch advocate for all people with special needs who strive to integrate themselves within our communities.

It is the intent of your Committee to amend Section 1 (Findings and Purpose) to provide better clarity and flow throughout the proposed legislation. Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 22-28 and recommends its passage in the form of House Draft 1.

D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 22-28 was introduced by Representative Edmund S. Villagomez on March 16, 2021 to the full body of the House and was referred to the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition.

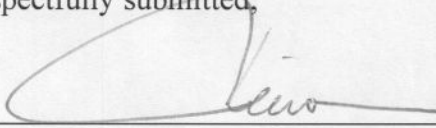
E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 22-28, HD1 will result in additional cost to the CNMI government due to the need for additional resources (staff, equipment, etc.) that are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this Act. However, the benefits of honoring a remarkable individual, such as Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol, heavily outweigh the costs.


III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H. B. NO. 22-28, and recommends its passage in the form of House Draft 1.


Respectfully submitted,



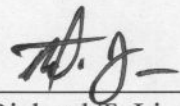
Rep. Celina R. Babauta, Chairperson



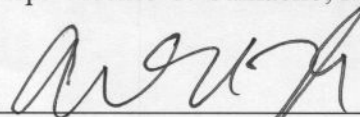
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Vice Chair



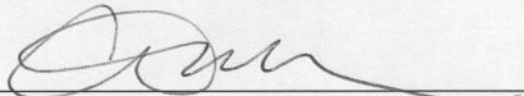
Rep. Vicente C. Camacho, Member




Rep. Richard T. Lizama, Member



Rep. Donald M. Manglona, Member

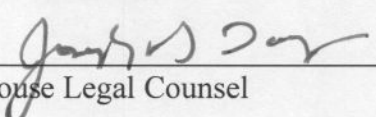


Rep. Christina M.E. Sablan, Member



Rep. Edwin K. Propst, Member

Reviewed by:



House Legal Counsel

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2021

First Regular Session, 2021

H. B. 22-28, HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To rename the structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the CNMI”; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 22ND NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that ~~there are~~
2 ~~people in this great~~ the Commonwealth whose character of life is indelibly enriched
3 by the noble and selfless efforts of ~~those~~ exceptional individuals who ~~would~~ devote
4 their time in the fields of education and advocacy support. The Center for Living
5 Independently in the CNMI, whose ~~main~~ mission is to ensure the rights of people
6 with disabilities to live independently and fully integrate within the community, or
7 outside of an institutional setting, has been the main ambition of Mrs. Lydia D.
8 Igitol.

9 Her commitment and desire to assist people with disabilities to live
10 independently ~~has~~ have ~~indelibly~~ impacted the lives of so many people in our ~~great~~
11 Commonwealth. Furthermore, Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol ~~has had~~ held many roles prior
12 to ~~her~~ dedicating her ~~lives~~ life work to the Center for Living Independently in the

1 CNMI. A graduate of the University of Guam in Public Administration with an
2 emphasis in Accounting, Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol distinguished herself in public
3 education in the CNMI by dedicating 25 years of selfless service to the CNMI
4 Public School System (PSS) at from which she retired ~~from~~ in December of 1988.
5 After her retirement, Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol applied for the Hawaii Centers for
6 Independent Living , a non-profit organization ~~who~~ that sought to branch out their
7 services; and sparked a new interest ~~and pathway~~ that would hold near and dear to
8 her heart.

9 The Legislature further finds that Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol was then hired as a
10 Satellite Office Director under the Hawaii Centers for Independent Living, a
11 position she held from June 2001-April 2005. Her dedication and ~~self-effacing~~
12 passion to help people with disabilities and spreading the Independent Living
13 philosophy which included community outreach ultimately led to the fruitful
14 opening of what is now the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI.

15 The Center for Living Independently in the CNMI has helped and assisted
16 countless people with disabilities ~~as well as~~ including students ~~with disabilities in~~
17 the Northern Mariana Islands, through Mrs. Lydia D. Igitol's advocacy. Her legacy
18 of bringing much needed Independent Living skills and services for people with
19 disabilities in the Northern Mariana Islands has left a profound impact in ~~this great~~
20 the Commonwealth. Therefore, it is ~~just and~~ suitable to rename the structure for the

1 Center for Living Independently in the CNMI to “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for
2 Living Independently in the CNMI”.

3 **Section 2. Enactment.** Subject to codification by the Commonwealth Law
4 Revision Commission the following provision is hereby enacted:

5 “§ 101. **Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in the**
6 **CNMI.**

7 The structure for the Center for Living Independently in the CNMI
8 is hereby renamed “The Lydia D. Igitol Center for Living Independently in
9 the CNMI”.”

10 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
11 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
12 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
13 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
14 shall not be affected thereby.

15 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
16 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
17 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
18 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
19 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
20 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
21 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

1 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
2 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 3/4/2021

Date: 3/4/2021

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez
/s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Richard T. Lizama
/s/ Rep. Danita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Tajeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel

