

SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Second Regular SESSION, 2008

H. J. R. 16-16

adopted 10/3/08

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To request that the Northern Marianas College refrain from transferring the KRNM public radio station license outside of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 **WHEREAS**, KRNM is a public, non-commercial radio station licensed to, and
2 located at, the Northern Marianas College. As a public radio station licensed by the
3 Federal Communications Commission, KRNM does not broadcast advertisements or
4 commercials over its airwaves; and

5 **WHEREAS**, KRNM, the first and only publicly supported radio station in the
6 CNMI, has broadcasted a wide variety of programs sent via satellite from National Public
7 Radio and Public Radio International including diverse range of shows, news, and
8 financial updates (originating from U.S., Australia, and England) to jazz, blues, classical,
9 and world music shows, as well as interviews, satires, technological reports, readings, and
10 plays; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in addition to providing the community with programming that
12 cannot be heard through any other media outlet in the CNMI, KRNM also serves as a
13 valuable training facility for both students and residents who volunteer to locally produce
14 and host programs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, KRNM has featured numerous community programs and shows,
16 and over one hundred Northern Marianas College and high school students who recorded
17 various Micronesian folk tales, as well as aired Humanities Roundtable series and
18 interviews with experts on Spanish and German periods in the CNMI, an author of a book
19 addressing the German administration, a geneticist and anthropologist involved with
20 DNA research in the Pacific, a linguistics specialist in languages throughout the region,
21 and a WW2 and P.O.W. survivor who fought on Saipan; and

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION _____

1 **WHEREAS**, public radio benefits the people of the CNMI by providing not only
2 entertaining music and feature programs, but informative and emergency announcements
3 such as typhoon and tsunami reports, and health warnings and educational shows as well.
4 Past KRNM specials have been aired in Chamorro, Carolinian, Chinese, Korean, Thai,
5 Tagalog, Spanish, Japanese, and Malayalam, reflecting the diversity of the CNMI's
6 population; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Marianas College, which has hosted KRNM since its
8 inception 10 years ago, recently announced that due to the extent of its budget cuts it can
9 no longer afford to financially support the public radio station. In the past, the Northern
10 Marianas College provided space for the station, paid the cost of utilities and staff, and
11 provided other related services; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI government has invested over five million dollars
13 (\$5,000,000) in KRNM, the CNMI's only public radio station, over the past ten years and
14 such investment would be lost forever should the Northern Marianas College transfer the
15 public radio station license outside the CNMI; and

16 **WHEREAS**, if the Northern Marianas College transfers the radio station license
17 outside the CNMI, people of the CNMI will be left without a public radio station to
18 broadcast community information, programs, features, and specials; and

19 **WHEREAS**, if the Northern Marianas College lacks the funds necessary to
20 operate and support KRNM, the college should temporarily cease all operations of the
21 radio station but maintain the public radio station license until such time that funding is
22 available for the radio station; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature is eager to commence a dialogue with the Northern
24 Marianas College regarding the future of KRNM as the CNMI's only public radio station
25 including possibly identifying funds necessary to operation the radio station;

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of Representatives of
27 the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate concurring,
28 requests that the Northern Marianas College refrain from transferring the KRNM public
29 radio station license outside of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

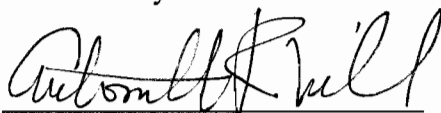
1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk and the
3 Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution and
4 thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to Mr. Charles V. Cepeda, Chairman of
5 the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College; Ms. Carmen Fernandez,
6 President of the Northern Marianas College; Operator of the KRNM public radio station;
7 Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands.

Prefiled: 10-3-08

Date: Oct. 3 08

Introduced By: 
Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider

Reviewed by:


House Legal Counsel

