

**NINETEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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SESSION, 2016

H. J. Res. 19- **10**

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**A HOUSE RESOLUTION**

To Establish a Long Term, Comprehensive Vision and Educational Plan for the Commonwealth that will be initiated through the Organization of an Education Symposium.

1           **WHEREAS**, forty years have passed since our people completed  
2 negotiations with the United States of America to become part of the U.S.  
3 family as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Nineteenth Legislature recognizes the urgent need to  
5 reassess its public educational and training institutions in order to realign  
6 current practices and services with the overall needs of the CNMI so that  
7 residents are provided with exemplary education and training programs so as  
8 to be competitive in the global market; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern  
10 Mariana Islands are experiencing, due to the influence of the modern world,  
11 an accelerated rate of change that challenges our traditions and customary  
12 ways; and

1           **WHEREAS**, a well-informed community is compelled to make  
2 positive adjustments in light of such changes by identifying, through analysis  
3 and deliberation, the driving forces behind those challenges; and

4           **WHEREAS**, as the Commonwealth continues to develop  
5 economically, there will be an ever increasing demand for workers who  
6 possess relevant skills and competencies in key areas. Additionally, as this  
7 demand increases, U. S. immigration policies will significantly reduce the  
8 number of available foreign non-immigrant workers in the CNMI; and

9           **WHEREAS**, it is critical at this time to evaluate and strengthen all  
10 existing educational and training programs in the CNMI; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth needs to provide its residents  
12 appropriate on-island educational and training programs from kindergarten  
13 through college in relevant subject areas; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the government has made available millions of dollars  
15 annually for its residents to pursue training and higher degrees on and off  
16 island, as evidenced by the scholarship opportunities CNMI students have  
17 availed of since the founding of the Commonwealth.

18           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of  
19 Representatives of the Nineteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
20 Legislature that representatives from the Public School System, Northern  
21 Marianas College, Northern Marianas Trades Institute, the CNMI  
22 Scholarship Office, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance

1 Office, the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Office, non-governmental  
2 institutions offering training and educational services, and various residents  
3 of the CNMI hereby assemble to:

4 (1) Identify and assess the successes and shortcomings relative  
5 to the quality and relevance of education at all levels in the  
6 CNMI;

7 (2) Identify and evaluate national trends in education to ensure  
8 that the quality of student programs and services provided in  
9 the CNMI match or exceed those provided in other U.S. states  
10 and jurisdictions;

11 (3) determine the unmet needs and recommend priorities  
12 relative to the CNMI's educational system at all levels;

13 (4) recommend the best means for effectively addressing the  
14 identified priorities in order to improve the quality of education  
15 in the CNMI at all levels;

16 (5) identify needed areas of expansion in education that  
17 address current and future needs of the Commonwealth;

18 (6) determine the most effective means for providing academic  
19 and vocational training programs;

20 (7) recommend how best to utilize existing financial and  
21 human resources;

1 (8) review and assess existing legislation pertinent to education  
2 in the CNMI; identify that which are not congruent with the  
3 purposes and activities of education in the Commonwealth; and  
4 recommend action regarding such legislation; draft new  
5 legislation that would carry out the recommendations and other  
6 proposed plans from the Summit; and

7 (9) provide all final recommendations and reports resulting  
8 from the Summit to the CNMI Governor, Senate President, and  
9 House Speaker within 30 days after the Summit; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
11 Representatives to identify funding for an Education Symposium that will  
12 take place in September 2016 or thereafter; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker shall certify and  
14 the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution, and thereafter  
15 the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Governor of  
16 the CNMI; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, CNMI Delegate  
17 to the 114<sup>th</sup> United States Congress; the Honorable Francisco M. Borja,  
18 Senate President of the Nineteenth CNMI Legislature; Secretary of Labor,  
19 Ms. Edith Deleon Guerrero; Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman, Chairman of the  
20 Northern Marianas College Board of Regents; Mr. David J. Attao, Interim  
21 President of Northern Marianas College; Mr. Herman T. Guerrero, Chairman  
22 of the Board of the Public School System; Dr. Rita A. Sablan, Commissioner