

**TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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\_\_\_\_\_ Session, 2021

H. J. R. 22- /

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**A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2021 proclaimed as CNMI Women's Month and March 8<sup>th</sup> as International Women's Day.

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1977, the United Nation's General Assembly adopted a  
2 resolution calling all their member states to declare a day to commemorate  
3 women's rights and international peace and following the United Nation's lead, the  
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island's proclaim March 2021 as CNMI  
5 Women's Month and March 8, 2021 as International Women's Day; and

6           **WHEREAS**, in 1979, the United Nations adopted the "Convention of the  
7 Elimination of Discrimination against Women" (CEDAW), which provides a  
8 mechanism for international governments to commit themselves to providing equal  
9 opportunities for women in the political and public life, as well as in the  
10 educational, health, and employment realms; and

11           **WHEREAS**, in the CNMI, women have made great historical contributions  
12 to the growth and strength of the Northern Mariana Islands in countless ways; and

1           **WHEREAS**, while women were once considered second-class citizens  
2 whose rights were restricted, today, women of the CNMI serve in the CNMI Senate,  
3 CNMI House of Representatives, in the Municipal Councils, as Judges, as members  
4 of the Governor's Cabinet, as members of our boards and commissions, and as  
5 CEOs in the private sector; and

6           **WHEREAS**, women in the CNMI have played a significant role in the  
7 establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in the  
8 Northern Mariana Islands; and

9           **WHEREAS**, women of the CNMI are also active and retired members of  
10 the United States Military, who have fought and are still fighting for the freedoms  
11 that we cherish today; and

12           **WHEREAS**, while entrepreneurship has been a male-dominated pursuit,  
13 many of today's most memorable and inspirational entrepreneurs in the CNMI are  
14 women; and

15           **WHEREAS**, women of the CNMI have also excelled in the professional  
16 fields including medicine, law, accounting, health and education; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the advancement of women in the CNMI is a top priority and  
18 women are now given their rightful place in our islands' history for their relentless  
19 efforts in improving our lives; and

20           **WHEREAS**, this year we continue to celebrate the economic, educational,  
21 political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future; and

1           **WHEREAS**, empowering women and promoting gender equality is crucial  
2 to accelerating sustainable development; ending all forms of discrimination against  
3 women and girls is not only a basic human right, but also has a multiplier effect  
4 across all other development areas; gender equality is a goal in its own right and a  
5 key factor for stable economic growth, social development, and environmental  
6 sustainability; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the CNMI theme for the 2021 Women’s Month is “**Gender**  
8 **Equality: Key to Sustainable Development**”; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the International Women’s Day, is a global day celebrating  
10 the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women; The day also  
11 marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity; and

12           **WHEREAS**, the 2021 theme for International Women’s Day is “**Choose**  
13 **To Challenge**”. A challenged world is an alert world. And from challenge comes  
14 change, so let’s all #ChooseToChange; and

15           **WHEREAS**, International Women’s Day is a chance to pay tribute to  
16 women throughout the world and to reflect on the progress and achievements made  
17 to advance women’s equality, celebrate the gains made by women in our society  
18 and reflect on the challenges and barriers that women continue to face; and

19           **WHEREAS**, balance is not a women issue, it’s a business issue; the race is  
20 on for the gender-balanced boardroom, a gender-balanced government, a gender-  
21 balanced media coverage, a gender-balanced of employees, more gender-balance

1 in wealth which collective action and shared responsibility for driving a gender-  
2 balanced world is key; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs  
4 Office reaffirms its continued commitment in advocating, guiding, and lighting the  
5 way for the continued progress and prosperity of all women in the CNMI; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs  
7 Office will be hosting a series of events during the month of March to reflect on the  
8 extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the  
9 course of our island's history;

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of  
11 Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
12 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the House congratulates and honors all the  
13 women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements  
14 during the month of March, 2021 as CNMI Women's Month and March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
15 as International Women's Day; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk  
18 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint  
19 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the  
20 Board of Directors of the CNMI Women's Association; Ms. Shirley Camacho-  
21 Ogumoro, Special Advisor for Women's Affairs Office; Honorable Ralph DLG.  
22 Torres, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable

1 David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan; Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of Tinian  
2 and Aguiguan; Honorable Efraim Atalig, Mayor of Rota; Honorable Vicente C.  
3 Santos, Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; Honorable Ana D. Castro, Chairwoman,  
4 16<sup>th</sup> Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council; Honorable Joseph E. Santos,  
5 Chairman, 18<sup>th</sup> Tinian Municipal Council; and Honorable Jim M. Atalig, Chairman,  
6 18<sup>th</sup> Rota Municipal Council.

Prefiled: MAR. 3, 2021

Date: 3/3/2021

Introduced by: *Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*  
Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:  
*Jon D. ...*  
House Legal Counsel