

**TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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Session, 2021

H. J. R. 22- 3

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**A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

To respectfully urge the Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres to reallocate necessary funds generated by the fees paid for by prospective employers of foreign nonimmigrant workers to the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI).

1           **WHEREAS**, the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) is a non-  
2           profit public corporation within the CNMI Government that was established by  
3           CNMI Public Law 20-92 to serve as an institution that is dedicated to developing  
4           and enhancing career, trades, and technical trainings within the CNMI; and

5           **WHEREAS**, such programs offered by NMTI include Adult High School,  
6           Automotive Technology, Construction Technology, Power Generation, Culinary  
7           Arts, and Hotel & Restaurant Operations; and

8           **WHEREAS**, in addition to the efforts of the Northern Marianas College  
9           (NMC) and the Public School System (PSS), it is the intent of NMTI to provide an  
10          additional avenue for individuals who wish to pursue a certain trade in hopes of a  
11          better and brighter future; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in pursuing such vocational programs, these individuals have  
2 chosen to undergo a path that will eventually lead to them becoming self-sufficient  
3 while also becoming positive contributors to society; and

4           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 115-218 (Northern Marianas  
5 Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018), a transition program was established to  
6 provide the CNMI with a time period to develop a work force that is not heavily  
7 reliant on foreign nonimmigrant workers; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the transition program is set to end on December 31, 2029:  
9 and

10           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the previously specified U.S. Public Law,  
11 specifically under 48 U.S.C. §1806(a)(6)(A)(i), a fee of two-hundred dollars (\$200)  
12 per foreign nonimmigrant worker, commonly referred to as “CW Fees”, is imposed  
13 on all prospective employers who wish to utilize such workers; and

14           **WHEREAS**, furthermore, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. §1806(a)(6)(A)(iii), the  
15 fees collected shall be deposited into the Treasury of the Commonwealth  
16 Government for the sole and exclusive purpose of funding vocational education,  
17 apprenticeships, or other training programs for United States workers; and

18           **WHEREAS**, despite such statute, it has come to the attention of this  
19 Legislature that NMTI has not received any the funds generated pursuant to 48  
20 U.S.C. §1806(a)(6)(A)(i); and

1           **WHEREAS**, due to the absence of necessary funds to sustain their  
2 operations at certain times, NMTI has been forced to take measures that have either  
3 closed or partially closed portions of the institution; and

4           **WHEREAS**, as an institute that provides programs and trainings pursuant  
5 to 48 U.S.C. §1806(a)(6)(A)(iii), NMTI should be eligible in receiving such funds  
6 that can be used to not just propel these individuals in the proper direction, but the  
7 CNMI's workforce as a whole; and

8           **WHEREAS**, furthermore, pursuant to the U.S. Department of Interior's  
9 Report to Congress in October 2019, the Department indicated that the  
10 "Commonwealth Worker Fund Annual Plan" calls for allocations to NMC and  
11 NMTI to fund apprenticeships and training programs; and

12           **WHEREAS**, with each passing day, the deadline for the transition program  
13 established by the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 gets  
14 nearer to its expiration; and

15           **WHEREAS**, cognizant of the essence of time, it is imperative to divert  
16 necessary funds to NMTI to allow for them to continue fulfilling their duties to the  
17 Commonwealth in developing a stable and reliable workforce; and

18           **WHEREAS**, in producing such a workforce, our islands will be able to  
19 efficiently and economically counterbalance labor shortages that we are currently  
20 facing; and

1           **WHEREAS**, furthermore, the future success of our Commonwealth relies  
2 heavily on the opportunities we provide to our present and future citizens by  
3 ensuring that they would not have to rely on going abroad to learn certain skills;  
4 and

5           **WHEREAS**, mindful of the labor shortages, lack of training opportunities,  
6 and an expiring transition program period, it is imperative to allocate these CW  
7 Fees to NMTI to allow for them to provide opportunities and possibilities to current  
8 and future CNMI students of such a brilliantly well-founded institution; and

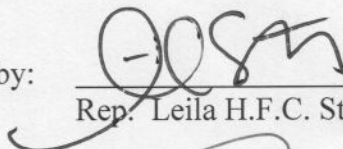
9           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of  
10 Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
11 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the House respectfully urges the Honorable  
12 Governor Ralph DLG. Torres to reallocate necessary funds generated by the fees  
13 paid for by prospective employers of foreign nonimmigrant workers to the Northern  
14 Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI); and

15           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk  
17 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint  
18 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to the Northern  
19 Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees; The Honorable Ralph DLG.  
20 Torres, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable  
21 Gregorio “Kilili” C. Sablan, U.S. Delegate to the United States Congress, 117<sup>th</sup>

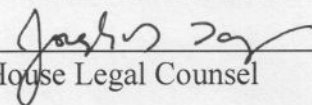
1 United States Congress; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor, the Municipality  
2 of Saipan; the Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor, the Municipality of Tinian and  
3 Aguiguan; the Honorable Efraim Atalig, Mayor, the Municipality of Rota; the  
4 Honorable Vicente C. Santos, Mayor, the Municipality of the Northern Islands;  
5 Mrs. Vicky I. Benavente, Secretary, CNMI Department of Labor; and Mrs. Agnes  
6 McPhetres.

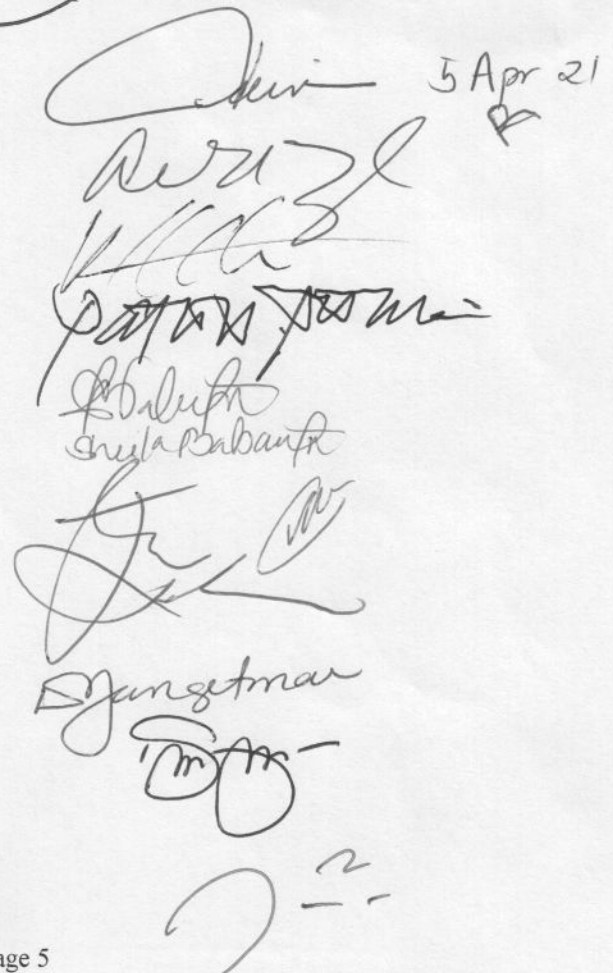
Prefiled: Apr. 12, 2021

Date: 4/12/21

Introduced by:   
Rep. Leila H.F.C. Staffler

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

  
5 Apr 21  
A series of handwritten signatures and initials are present on the right side of the page. The first signature is dated "5 Apr 21". Below it are several other signatures, some of which appear to be names like "Patricia" and "Efraim". There are also some initials and scribbles at the bottom of this section.