

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

_____ Session, 2021

_____ H. J. R. 22- 5

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To authorize the establishment of an additional nine (9) positions as needed by the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI); and for other purposes.

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

6 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Career and Technical Training Act, NMTI is
7 responsible for carrying out the duties of establishing a program that is conducive
8 in supporting career and technical shortages as demanded by the global economy;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, however, pursuant to Public Law 21-35 (FY 2021 Annual
11 Appropriations Act), NMTI's entire budget was line-item vetoed, hence the lack of
12 necessary personnel to commence the operations of the institute; and

1 **WHEREAS**, as of February 9, 2021, despite the shortage of funds, NMTI
2 managed to successfully transition from a non-profit educational institute to a new
3 government entity pursuant to the statutes under CNMI Public Law 20-92; and

4 **WHEREAS**, recently after transition, NMTI's Board of Trustees appointed
5 Ms. Jodina Attao to serve as an interim Chief Executive Officer for the institute;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, upon appointment, Interim CEO Attao is now obligated to
8 face the many obstacles and hinderances that NMTI is presently enduring, most
9 especially the shortage of necessary faculty and staff; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the following additional NOPs requested by NMTI, and
11 deemed necessary, are as follows:

- 12 1. Human Resource Manager
- 13 2. Finance Department – Fiscal Specialist
- 14 3. Finance Department – Accountant
- 15 4. Facilities Maintenance
- 16 5. Administrative Specialist
- 17 6. Director of Instruction
- 18 7. Community Outreach Coordinator
- 19 8. Curriculum Coordinator
- 20 9. Student Services Coordinator

1 **WHEREAS**, in a letter submitted to the Legislature, dated March 30th,
2 2021, NMTI Board of Trustees Chairman Mario Valentino and Interim CEO Jodina
3 Attao indicated that these positions are critical in setting up the institute with
4 efficient processes and strong internal systems; and

5 **WHEREAS**, furthermore, Interim CEO Jodina Attao continues to meet
6 stakeholders to address other issues that the institute is faced with; and

7 **WHEREAS**, as an institute committed to developing the various trades
8 necessary to build a productive and reliable workforce, it is extremely important to
9 provide NMTI with the resources they need to continue; and

10 **WHEREAS**, such trade programs include Adult High School, Automotive
11 Technology, Construction Technology, Power Generation, Culinary Arts, and
12 Hotel & Restaurant Operations; and

13 **WHEREAS**, cognizant of the labor workforce shortages that the CNMI is
14 presently faced with, NMTI is the institute that is dedicated to rectify such
15 deficiency; and

16 **WHEREAS**, with each passing day that goes by, NMTI continues to
17 operate at an inadequate capacity which will negatively affect not only the
18 institution, but the CNMI as a whole; and

19 **WHEREAS**, mindful of such shortfalls, we cannot sit idly by and allow for
20 this well-founded institution to falter and, therefore, must act swiftly to equip our

1 labor force with the proper foundation and establishment it needs to secure a better
2 and brighter future for our Commonwealth; and


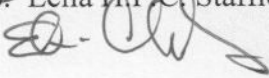
3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of
4 Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth
5 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the House authorizes the establishment of
6 an additional nine (9) positions as needed by the Northern Marianas Technical
7 Institute (NMTI); and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of
9 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk
10 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
11 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a copy to Ms. Jodina Attao,
12 Interim CEO, Northern Marianas Technical Institute; the Northern Marianas
13 Technical Institute Board of Trustees; The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres,
14 Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable
15 Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, U.S. Delegate to the United States Congress, 117th
16 United States Congress; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor, the Municipality
17 of Saipan; the Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor, the Municipality of Tinian and
18 Aguiguan; the Honorable Efraim Atalig, Mayor, the Municipality of Rota; the
19 Honorable Vicente C. Santos, Mayor, the Municipality of the Northern Islands; and
20 Mrs. Vicky I. Benavente, Secretary, CNMI Department of Labor.

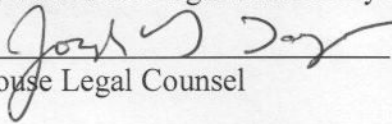
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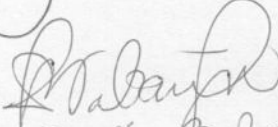
Date: 4/14/2021

Introduced by:


Rep. Leila H.F.C. Staffler


Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel


Dungetmai 4/14/2021

Sheila Babarfa
B.T.G.
