



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2008

House Resolution No. 16-37

Offered by Representatives: Arnold I. Palacios, Edwin P. Aldan, Oscar M. Babauta, Diego T. Benavente, Joseph N. Camacho, Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Victor B. Hocog, Heinz S. Hofschneider, Raymond D. Palacios, Joseph C. Reyes, Edward T. Salas, Rosemond B. Santos, Ramon A. Tebuteb, Stanley T. McGinnis Torres, and Ray N. Yumul

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

Recognizing and commending the United Micronesia Development Association for its contributions, commitment, and investments in the island nations and Communities of Micronesia especially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 **WHEREAS**, the United Micronesia Development Association (UMDA) is a Saipan-
2 based investment firm, which invests in, owns, and manages a portfolio of companies
3 operating in the tourism, telecommunications, and airline industries of Micronesia; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
5 Palau, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are among the long time
6 shareholders of UMDA, which is owned by over 1200 Micronesian shareholders; and

7 **WHEREAS**, UMDA's first investment included purchasing a shipping cooperative
8 for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to transport copra to Japan and import foods and
9 materials to the Micronesian Islands and communities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, during the late 1960's UMDA further invested in Air Micronesia,
11 which later merged with Continental Airlines thereby creating Continental Micronesia in the
12 late 1980's providing air service to all the islands and communities of Micronesia; and

13 **WHEREAS**, during the 1990's UMDA made various tourism industry investments
14 in the Republic of Palau, and other Micronesian locations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Continental Airlines used UMDA's interest in Continental Micronesia
16 to rehabilitate the said airlines after declaring bankruptcy in 1993. Continental Airlines
17 purchased UMDA's share in Continental Micronesia in 1996; and

18 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, UMDA acquired Guam Cable TV and Saipan Cable TV,
19 thereby creating a unified cable television system in the Northern Marianas. UMDA sold the
20 cable television company in year 2005; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2005, UMDA purchased the 36 hole, Greg Norman designed,
2 LaoLao Bay Golf Course in Saipan. UMDA employed mostly Commonwealth residents and
3 compact residents at the LaoLao Bay Golf Course; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in order to stimulate the ailing economy of the CNMI and to ensure the
5 future of additional flights to Saipan, UMDA made a corporate strategic decision relative to
6 the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2008 UMDA purchased the 313 room Hotel Nikko Saipan from JAL
8 Airlines. UMDA is presently negotiating with an a major international hotel management
9 company to operate the premises now called the “Palms Resort Saipan”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Joe Lifoifoi, Chairman of the UMDA Board of Directors and
11 former speaker of the CNMI House of Representatives, recently stated that “Saipan is our
12 home. UMDA was formed in the time of the Trust Territory, during the days of copra trade.
13 The history of UMDA has always been to support and improve our communities, as we earn
14 a good return for our shareholders. Micronesia and the World will see UMDA create a world
15 class resort property on Saipan, and aid the CNMI in its economic recovery. UMDA will
16 invest tens of millions of dollars in the renovations of Palms Resort Saipan, and with that
17 investment will come new jobs and more tourists for Saipan. UMDA is one of the very few
18 companies indigenous to the CNMI, and will remain loyal to the CNMI and Micronesia”;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, UMDA’s purchase of LaoLao Bay Golf Course and Hotel Nikko
21 Saipan illustrates UMDA’s capacity to be a powerhouse player in Saipan’s tourism industry
22 and economy; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth and its people are grateful for UMDA’s business in
24 the Commonwealth and urge UMDA to make further investments in the Commonwealth to
25 stimulate and rehabilitate the economy;

26 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Representatives of the
27 Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the House recognizes and
28 commends the United Micronesia Development Association for its contributions,
29 commitment, and investments in the island nations and communities of Micronesia
30 especially the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of Representatives
2 shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter
3 the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Mr. Joe Lifoifoi, Chairman of the Board of
4 Directors of United Micronesia Development Association; the Honorable Benigno R. Fitiaf,
5 Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Mr. James Santos,
6 Secretary of the Department of Commerce; and Mr. Jim Arenovski, President of the Saipan
7 Chamber of Commerce.

Adopted by the House of Representatives on June 23, 2008

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK