

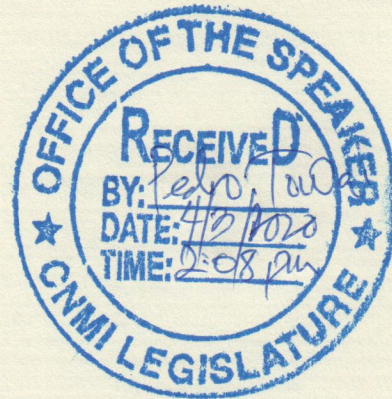
RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

April 03, 2020

The Honorable Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950



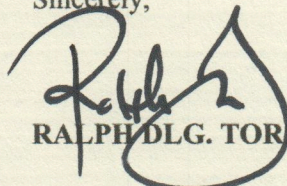
The Honorable Victor B. Hocog
Senate President
The Senate
Twenty-First Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 21-60: HD1, SD1** entitled, "To establish the CNMI Cultural Masters Award; and for other purposes." which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 21-21**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


RALPH DLG. TORRES

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture; Office of Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY [Signature]
DATE 4/13/2020 TIME 12:42h



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION

JUNE 11, 2019

REPRESENTATIVE LUIS JOHN DLG. CASTRO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, Representatives* ,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 21-60, HD1, SD1

AN ACT

**TO ESTABLISH THE CNMI CULTURAL MASTERS AWARD; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-20; adopted 8/9/2019.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 9, 2019**
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-60, HD1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

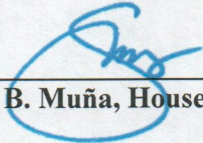
The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 21-71; adopted 2/10/2020.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, FEBRUARY 10, 2020;
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 21-60, HD1, SD1..

**H. B. No. 21-60, HD1, SD1 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FEBRUARY 18, 2020.**

The House of Representatives accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 21-608, HD1, SD1 during its Third Day, Third Regular Session on February 18, 2020.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON FEBRUARY 18, 2020.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



*Twenty-First Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRD DAY, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

H. B. No. 21-60, HD1, SD1

AN ACT

**TO ESTABLISH THE CNMI CULTURAL MASTERS AWARD; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act shall be cited as the “CNMI Cultural Masters Award Act of 2019”.

3 **SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 The Legislature finds that the indigenous cultures of the Commonwealth of the
5 Northern Mariana Islands consist of their respective traditions, healing and artistic practices,
6 music, storytelling, and so forth. Throughout the centuries, these cultural practices have
7 remained resilient and adapted to the contemporary conditions of each time period due in large
8 part to the individuals who have dedicated their life’s work to the conservation of indigenous

HOUSE BILL 21-60, HD1, SD1

1 culture. Through the efforts of these individuals, the indigenous cultures of our Commonwealth
2 have withstood the test of time and continue to persist in light of increasing globalization and
3 technological advancement.

4 The Legislature recognizes that the preservation of our indigenous cultures is crucial to
5 providing a sense of identity for future generations. Accordingly, the Legislature finds that it
6 is imperative to honor those individuals who continue to perpetuate our cultural traditions and
7 pay tribute to their contributions to our communities. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to
8 establish the CNMI Cultural Masters Award; and for other purposes.

9 **SECTION 3. ENACTMENT.**

10 Notwithstanding any laws or regulations to the contrary and subject to proper
11 codification by the CNMI Law Revision Commission, the following new provisions are hereby
12 enacted:

13 §101. Short Title.

14 This Act shall be known and cited as the “CNMI Cultural Masters Award Act.”

15 §102. Creation.

16 There is created within the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Cultures the
17 CNMI Cultural Masters Award, to be given to accomplished practitioners of CNMI’s
18 folk and traditional arts who have contributed to the preservation, advancement, and
19 appreciation of their art.

20 § 103. Award Frequency and Limitations.

21 The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Cultures shall accept nominations for
22 the CNMI Cultural Masters Award during the month of April 2020 and every four (4)

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1 years thereafter. No more than four (4) awards may be given during each award year.
2 Nominations for the CNMI Cultural Masters Award may be accepted from any party
3 other than the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture council members,
4 management and staff, or from a prospective award candidate.

5 § 104. Selection Criteria.

6 Nominees for the CNMI Cultural Masters Award shall be judged based on the
7 following criteria:

- 8 (a) Exemplary and active practice of a traditional art form.
- 9 (b) Expertise, consummate skill, and longevity in the promotion and perpetuation
10 of a traditional art form.
- 11 (c) Contributions to the traditional art form in areas of appreciation, knowledge,
12 teaching, advocacy, and advancement.
- 13 (d) Evidence of high artistic quality of work and mastery of traditional art form
14 via support materials.
- 15 (e) Continuing artistic accomplishment.
- 16 (f) Participation in one's art form via practicing or teaching.
- 17 (g) Artistic excellence.
- 18 (h) Benefit to artistic tradition through contributions such as teaching, advocacy,
19 organizing, and preserving important repertoires.
- 20 (i) Contribution to living cultural heritage.
- 21 (j) Active engagement in preserving the folk and traditional arts.
- 22 (k) Increase in opportunities for and public visibility of traditional arts and artists

1 through the nominee's efforts.

2 (l) Nominees must be registered practitioners with the Commonwealth Council
3 for Arts and Cultures.

4 § 105. Selection Procedures.

5 (a) The staff of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture shall review
6 nomination packets to ensure that the criteria and guidelines have been met.

7 (b) A panel of experts, to be determined by the Commonwealth Council for Arts
8 and Culture based on the nominees' disciplines, shall convene to verify authenticity and
9 merit, and to narrow the pool of nominees.

10 (c) A panel of judges, to be determined by Commonwealth Council for Arts and
11 Culture, shall convene to determine final recipients of the CNMI Cultural Masters Award
12 based on the selection criteria listed in § 104 herein and consent of the nominee.”

13 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

14 If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or
15 circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this
16 Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which
17 it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

18 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

19 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any
20 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,
21 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect
22 any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not

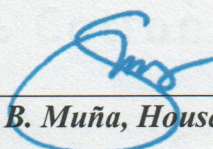
HOUSE BILL 21-60, HD1, SD1

1 have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which
2 shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

3 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

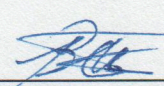
4 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law
5 without such approval.

Attested to by:



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO
House of Representatives
21st Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 3rd day of APRIL, 2020



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands