

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2010

S. R. NO. 17-14

A SENATE RESOLUTION

Expressing the Senate's opposition to legislation that would legalize casino gambling on the island of Saipan.

1 WHEREAS, Article XXI of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the
2 Northern Mariana Islands prohibits gambling in the Commonwealth "except as provided
3 by Commonwealth Law or established through initiative in the Commonwealth or in any
4 senatorial district"; and

5 WHEREAS, at the polling booths, the people of Saipan have unequivocally
6 expressed their opposition to casino gambling on Saipan by repeatedly rejecting proposed
7 constitutional amendments that would allow such gambling; and

8 WHEREAS, for the Legislature to enact such legislation would be an explicit
9 disregard to the will of the people, an insult to the voters and an affront to the democratic
10 process; and

11 WHEREAS, the economic downturn in the Commonwealth demands that the time
12 and resources of the Legislature be devoted to finding practical solutions to improve the
13 welfare of its citizens, and not subjugating the clear desires of the people of Saipan as
14 expressed at the voting booths; now therefore

15 BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate, Seventeenth Northern Marianas
16 Commonwealth Legislature, that the Senate is opposed to legislation that would
17 legalize casino gambling, in any form, on the island of Saipan; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate will not support such
19 legislation should it be transmitted to the upper house for consideration; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Senate is ready to act on feasible
2 and realistic measures to improve the economic well-being of the Commonwealth
3 and her people; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate shall certify, and
5 the Senate Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution and thereafter transmit
6 certified copies to the honorable Donald Flores, Mayor of Saipan; the honorable Ramon
7 Dela Cruz, Mayor of Tinian; the honorable Melchor Mendiola, Mayor of Rota; the
8 honorable Froilan C. Tenorio, Speaker of the House of Representatives; and the
9 honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
10 Islands.

Prefiled:

Date: 04/15/10

Introduced By: /s/
Sen. Pete P. Reyes