A HOUSE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION

To congratulate and honor all the women in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2017 as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th, 2017 as International Women’s Day.

WHEREAS, in 1977, the United Nation’s General Assembly adopted a resolution calling all their member states to declare a day to commemorate women’s rights and international peace; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, the United Nations adopted the “Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination against Women” (CEDAW), which provides a mechanism for international governments to commit themselves to providing equal opportunities for women in the political and public life, as well as in the educational, health, and employment realms; and

WHEREAS, in the CNMI, women have made great historical contributions to the growth and strength of the Northern Mariana Islands in countless ways; and

WHEREAS, while women were once considered second-class citizens whose rights were restricted, today, women of the CNMI serve in the CNMI Senate, CNMI House of Representatives, in the Municipal Councils, as Judges, as
members of the Governor’s Cabinet, as members of our boards and commissions, and as CEOs in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, women in the CNMI have played a significant role in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic, humanitarian and cultural institutions in the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, women of the CNMI are also active and retired members of the United States Military, who have fought and are still fighting for the freedoms that we cherish today; and

WHEREAS, while entrepreneurship has been a male-dominated pursuit, many of today’s most memorable and inspirational entrepreneurs in the CNMI are women; and

WHEREAS, women of the CNMI have also excelled in the professional fields including medicine, law, accounting, and education; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of women in the CNMI is a top priority and women are now given their rightful place in our islands’ history for their relentless efforts in improving our lives; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Women’s Month theme is “Empowering Women as Leaders of Change”; and

WHEREAS, this year, we also commemorate the anniversary of International Women’s Day, a global celebration of the economic, educational, political, and social achievements of women past, present, and future; and
WHEREAS, the 2017 theme for International Women’s Day is “Be Bold For Change”; “Call on the masses or call on yourself to help forge a better working world – a more gender inclusive world.”; and

WHEREAS, all around the world, International Women’s Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality; and

WHEREAS, International Women’s Day is a chance to pay tribute to women throughout the world and to reflect on the progress and achievements made to advance women’s equality, celebrate the gains made by women in our society and reflect on the challenges and barriers that women continue to face; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI Women’s Association (CWA) and the Women’s Affairs Office, in collaboration with its key partners is hosting a series of events during the month of March to reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of our island’s history; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI Women’s Association commits to continue advocating, guiding, and lighting the way for the continued progress and prosperity of women in the CNMI;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, that the House congratulates and honors all the women in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as we celebrate their contributions and
achievements during the month of March, 2017 as CNMI Women’s Month and March 8th, 2017 as International Women’s Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Board of Directors of the CNMI Women’s Association; Ms. Doris R. Drew, Special Assistant for Women’s Affairs; Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable Victor B. Hocog, Lieutenant Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Senate President, Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan; Honorable Luis John Castro, Acting Mayor of the Northern Islands; Honorable Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan; Honorable Efraim Atalig, Mayor of Rota; Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council; Tinian Municipal Council; and Rota Municipal Council.

Prefiled: 2/28/17

Date: 2/28/17  
Introduced By: Rep. Janet U. Maratita

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by: