



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950

**Donald C. Barcinas**  
Chairman  
Transportation Committee

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20-19  
DATE: APRIL 28, 2017  
RE: H.B. NO. 20-045

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Capitol Hill  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Transportation to which House Bill No. 20-045 was referred, entitled:

“To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

**I. RECOMMENDATION:**

After reasonable discussion and deliberation on the legislation, the Committee recommends that the House pass House Bill No. 20-045 in the form of House Draft 1.

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*  
DATE 5/1/17 TIME 4:52pm

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Committee on Transportation  
Donald C. Barcinas

Francisco S. Dela Cruz • Francisco C. Aguon • Edwin P. Aldan • Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao • Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero • Jose I. Itibus

## II. ANALYSIS:

### A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 20-045 is to establish two new public highways on the island of Saipan, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kannat Tabla.

### B. Amendments:

In addition to non-substantive technical amendments, the Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of House Bill No. 20-045.

- **Page 4**

- **Line 7**

- After the word “the” **inserted** the following language “Department of Public Works” and **deleted** “Department of Public Lands”.

- **Line 8**

- **Inserted** the following language “Department of Public Lands” and **deleted** “Department of Public Works”.

The Committee made necessary amendments to Section 3 of House Bill No. 20-045 to support the Department of Public Lands authority to manage and dispose of public lands pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the NMI Constitution and Public Law 15-2.

### C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that House Bill No. 20-045 proposes to establish two new public highways on the island of Saipan, namely:

**“(a) Route 324 – Laulau Bay Drive.** There is hereby established on the island of Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 324 also known as Laulau Bay Drive in order to connect Laulau Bay Drive to Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 34 (Kagman Road). Route 324 shall commence at the Laulau Bay Drive and Isa Drive intersection in Laulau heading east following the existing road towards Laulau Beach and then north towards Kagman until the highway connects to Route 34 (Kagman Road) in Kagman.

**(b) Route 325 – Kannat Tabla Drive.** There is hereby established on the island of Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 325 also known as Kannat Tabla

Drive in order to connect Kannat Tabla Drive to Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold Road). Route 325 shall commence at the Kannat Tabla Drive and Isa Drive intersection in Kannat Tabla heading north following the existing road and down towards Nguus Street near McDonald's Restaurant in Chalan Kiya until the highway connects to Route 31 (Chalan Pale Arnold Road)."

The Committee recognizes that establishing these two new public highways will benefit the Commonwealth as a whole, giving residents and visitors traveling to the village of Kannat Tabla and Kagman area a reliable and alternative route. The number of residents and visitors within the village of Kannat Tabla and Kagman has increased throughout the years. Due to the increase, the usage of Kannat Tabla Drive and Laulau Bay Drive has increased accordingly. However, due to the inclement rainy seasonal weather that Saipan experiences, the aforementioned routes continuously faces severe erosion and drainage damages. Despite temporary measures taken by the departments responsible, Kannat Tabla Drive and Laulau Bay Drive continues to undergo the same damages which continue to add financial strains to the CNMI Government. Kannat Tabla Drive is a vital travel route because it is the main motorway for the growing residents of the village of Kannat Tabla. Laulau Bay Drive is also vital in that it serves as an alternative route for visitors and residents entering or exiting Kagman area.

Your Committee also finds that House Bill No. 20-045 obliges the Department of Public Works to include Routes 324 (Laulau Bay Drive) and 325 (Kannat Tabla Drive) on the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and prioritize the funding necessary for the construction of Routes 324 and 325 on the island of Saipan. The Committee recognizes the need to implement a more durable solution and increase the lifespan of Kannat Tabla Drive and Laulau Bay Drive so that it develops into a safe, efficient, and main reliable or alternative transportation system within the CNMI most specifically for the growing population of Kannat Tabla and Kagman area. Establishing these two new public highways will benefit the Commonwealth in that not only will it serve the interest of the public for improved road standards, but will also seek eligibility in funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Therefore, your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 20-045 and recommends its passage in the form of House Draft 1.

D. Public Comments:

Comment(s) were solicited from various agencies. Comment(s) that were received before Committee action were from:

- Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor, Municipality of Saipan.
  - Velma M. Palacios, President, Saipan Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.
-

- James I. Benavente, Environmental Engineer, Burea of Environmental and Coastal Quality.
- Marianne Concepcion-Teregeqo, Secretary, Department of Public Lands.
- James. A Ada, Secretary, Department of Public Works.
- Christopher A. Concepcion, Managing Director, Marianas Visitors Authority.

E. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 20-045 was formally introduced to the full body of the House on February 28, 2017 by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero and was subsequently referred to your House Standing Committee on Transportation for disposition.


F. Cost Benefit:


The enactment of House Bill No. 20-045 will result in minimal costs to the CNMI Government. It will in turn help provide for vital alternative routes within the CNMI as well as be eligible for federal funds which will be used to carry out the intent of the proposed legislation.

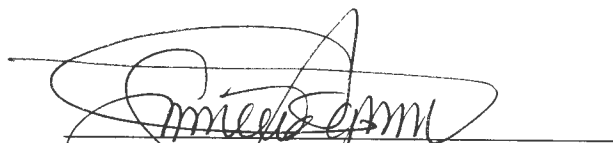
**III. CONCLUSION:**

The Committee is in full accord with the provisions of House Bill No. 20-045 and recommends the adoption of this legislation in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Rep. Donald C. Barcinas, Chairman

  
Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Vice Chairman

  
Rep. Francisco C. Aguon, Member

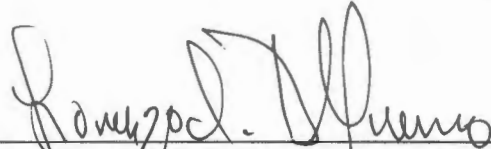
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan, Member

April 28, 2017

RE: H.B. No. 20-045

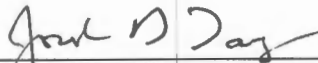
Page 5

  
Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Member

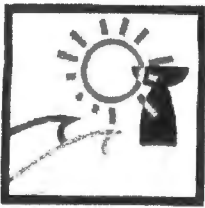
  
Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, Member

Rep. Jose I. Itibus, Member

Reviewed by:

  
House Legal Counsel

Attachment: Letter dated March 22, 2017 from Marianas Visitors Authority.  
Letter dated March 27, 2017 from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.  
Letter dated March 27, 2017 from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal  
Quality.  
Letter dated March 28, 2017 from the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of  
Saipan.  
Letter dated March 28, 2107 from the Department of Public Lands.  
Letter dated April 12, 2017 from the Office of the Secretary of Public Works.



**MARIANAS**  
VISITORS AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 500861 CK  
SAIPAN, MP 96950  
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1  
FAX: (670) 664-3237  
E-mail: [mva@mymarianas.com](mailto:mva@mymarianas.com)  
[www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com)

March 22, 2017



RECEIVED  
DATE BY *Jr 3/24/17*

Mr. Donald Barcinas  
Chairman  
House Standing Committee on Transportation  
20<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P.O. Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

RE: H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003

Hafa Adai Chairman Barcinas:

The Marianas Visitors Authority is in receipt of your letter dated February 6, 2017, but received by our office on March 13, 2017, soliciting our comments on the following House Bill and House Joint Resolution.

H.B. No. 20-045, "To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the island of Saipan; and for other purposes."; and

H.J.R. No. 20-003, "Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works to include Lau Lua Bay road under the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) and for other purposes."

The MVA takes no position on H.B. 20-045 and H.J.R. 20-003. We thank you for your request for feedback on the above Bill and Resolution.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER A. CONCEPCION  
Managing Director





# SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

P.O. Box 500806 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-7150 • Fax: (670) 234-7151  
www.saipanchamber.com

info@saipanchamber.com

2016  
Board of Directors

President  
Velma M. Palacios

Vice President  
Ron Smith

Secretary  
Kevin McCale

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Michael Johnson

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Tyrell Pauling  
Alex K. Youn

Executive Director  
Jill M. Arenovski

Administrator  
Mercilynn K. Palec

Coordinators  
Christine Tadeo  
Lou Frances Pua

March 27, 2017

RECEIVED  
DATE/BY: 3/31/17  
Rep. B. Boran

Representative Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Representative Deleon Guerrero,

The Governmental Relations Committee for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) respectfully submits our position on the following bill:

**HB 20-45- To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Lau Lau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.**

- On our island, much of the decision of frequenting a business lies in its location and accessibility. Poor roadways or lack thereof can be extremely detrimental to a business. Establishing these two new public highways will allow customers the accessibility to the businesses currently in these areas. This will also present opportunities to business owners and promote economic development in these areas which will benefit the business community as a whole. The SCC finds that it is necessary to establish these two new public highways.
  - **The SCC supports this bill.**

Thank you for considering our comments: we appreciate the opportunity to give our opinions on how this bill affects the business climate of our island.

Regards.

Velma M. Palacios  
President, SCC Board of Directors

3/27/2017

Gmail - Fwd: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003

DEQ:

*RE HJR 20-3 & HB 20-45*

WEEC is supportive of H.B. 20-45 and H.J.R. No. 20-003. Route 324 (Laulau Bay Drive) and Route 325 (Kannat Tabla Drive) have been constantly repaired every year only to add more sediments leading down into Laulau Bay and Kannat Tabla streams. WEEC recommends that BECQ and DPW collaborate to ensure that proper road and drainage designs are developed and implemented. Submittal of a One Start Earthmoving Application with all the required documents should allow BECQ and partnering agencies to review and comment on the proposed road improvements in more detail.

CRM:

*RE HJR 20-3*

BECQ agrees with the Legislature's finding that Saipan's population is rapidly expanding and that run-off damages coral reefs in the Lau Lau watershed. BECQ has supported several road improvement projects and has re-design plans available to support reduction of sediment loading to the receiving waters of Lau Lau Bay. We would be happy to support DPW's efforts to incorporate stormwater management recommendations into the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan as it relates to improvements to the section of road running from Isa Drive to Kagman Road. As wastewater infrastructure is also limited in this area, and as failing septic systems may contribute to ground and surface water quality impacts, we would further encourage coordinated, interagency planning to address growth in this area. Design and installation of community wastewater treatment systems would be a significant investment that would further support sustainable growth and natural resource protection in the Lau Lau and Kagman areas.

*RE HB 20-45*

*(same agreement as above re Laulau)*

Regarding Kannat Tabla road, BECQ agrees that run-off from the existing unpaved road poses flooding risks. However, it is unclear how the connection to Chalan Kiya would be established and maintained in a way to support further development and alleviate traffic concerns in this area. Currently, the existing road is sited on top of a perennial stream, and BECQ recognizes the importance of improving this road and properly diverting water flows to address flooding concerns. However, if the road were to continue north from its current terminal point to Nguus Street it would transect steep slopes and, depending on proposed road alignment, cross additional drainages. Given the potential need for environmental impact assessment to enable the development of this proposal, it may be worthwhile to conduct a traffic study to support the finding that a proposed road connecting Kannat Tabla to Chalan Kiya would indeed alleviate traffic. Moreover, if this road were to be developed, it is likely that much of it would run through a "Class I" groundwater protection area. Because establishment of well and septic systems can be challenging in this high groundwater protection zone, further interagency planning to support growth in this area is encouraged.

3/27/2017

Gmail - Fwd: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003



Jean Rabauliman <jeanorabauliman@gmail.com>

**Fwd: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003**

1 message

**Representative Donald Barcinas** <repdonaldbarcinas@gmail.com>  
To: Jean Rabauliman <jeanorabauliman@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 27, 2017 at 9:04 AM

Jean, please print copies of comments from BECQ.

Thanks,

Rep Barcinas

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Representative Donald Barcinas** <repdonaldbarcinas@gmail.com>  
Date: Thu, Mar 23, 2017 at 3:53 PM  
Subject: Re: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003  
To: James Benavente <JamesBenavente@becq.gov.mp>  
Cc: Ray Masga <RayMasga@becq.gov.mp>, frankrabauliman@becq.gov.mp

On Thu, Mar 23, 2017 at 3:18 PM James Benavente <JamesBenavente@becq.gov.mp> wrote:

Representative Barcinas,

Thank you for taking your time to respond to our request for comments. We value your contribution and will incorporate your recommendations into our committee report in our forthcoming Transportation Committee meeting.

Respectfully yours,

Representative Barcinas

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide feedback on the above legislation. The following is the compilation from our DEQ and CRM staff:

3/27/2017

Gmail - Fwd: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003

We look forward to working with the respective designer and contractor for the proposed development. Please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

**James I. Benavente, E.I.T** | Environmental Engineer

**Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality** | Wastewater & Erosion Control Branch

**P. O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950-1220**

**Office: 670-664-8570 | Email: jamesbenavente@becq.gov.mp**

BECQ new logo  
latest

cid:image004.jpg

Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**2 attachments**



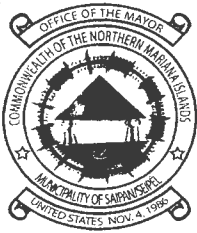
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12/27/2017

Gmail - Fwd: Feedback/comments on H.B. No. 20-045 and H.J.R. No. 20-003



image001.jpg  
5K



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN  
Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Oleai  
P.O. Box 501457  
Saipan, MP 96950



David M. Apatang  
Mayor of Saipan

Tel: (670) 234-6208 Fax: (670) 234-1190

Email: saipanmayorsoffice@gmail.com

March 28, 2017

RECEIVED  
DATE: 3/29/17  
Rep. D. Balciara

The Honorable Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero  
Representative  
The House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
Legislature  
Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950  
VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

Re: Comments on House Bill No. 20-45

Dear Representative Deleon Guerrero:

You have requested our office to offer comments on the above-titled bill, a bill that you had authored and introduced in the House of Representatives. Although we have not been asked to comment on the bill by the chairman of the House standing committee that ultimately the bill would be referred to, we offer our comments below only because you had requested it from us.

Enacting a legislation to designate rights-of-way, in this case, two roadways, as state highways and to be included in the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan might make sense, if the agency tasked to making sure highways are included in the TTIP was not doing its job. We have no reason to doubt the agency was not doing its job, so we have to think of another reason for the bill being drafted and introduced. By reading the bill, we believe the reason might be simpler to understand.

We believe the objective of the bill is merely to identify two existing public thoroughfares for inclusion in the TTIP, as doing so, we presume, will increase the odds that when the time comes for the two roadways to be improved that the cost will be eligible for federal funding. We have no objection to this presupposed notion, for it is harmless to include the roadways by way of legislation, although we believe the agency tasked to be responsible for the improvement of highways could as easily do it by whatever authority it has now, if it has any.

Since it would be appropriate for us to defer to the agency charged with the responsibility for designating and improving state highways, we limit our support on the bill based solely on its intent. We have not made an evaluation of all possible impacts the bill might have on existing land use, land ownership, traffic, noise, financing of improvements, etc., and it is best for us to

leave those tasks to the appropriate agency to perform. The evaluation should be done by the Department of Public Works.

Thank you for asking us to comment on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAVID M. APATANG', written over a horizontal line.

DAVID M. APATANG  
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Governor  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

March 28, 2017

LC17-0139

Honorable Donald C. Barcinas, Representative  
Chairman,  
Committee on Transportation  
House of Representatives  
Twentieth Northern Marianas Legislature  
P.O. Box 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

RECEIVED  
3/29/17

**Re: Comments on H.B. 20-45**

Dear Chairman Barcinas:

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced house bill.

H.B. 20-45 proposes "[t]o establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of LauLau and Route 325 in the village of Kannat Tabla on the Island of Saipan . . . ."

The Department of Public Lands' ("DPL") supports the intent of the bill--to establish two new public roads on Saipan. The establishment and development of LauLau Bay Drive could be a vital alternative route to the village of Kagman. The establishment and development of the Kannat Tabla Drive could solve the longstanding burden on the residents of having to traverse to and from during heavy rainy season, endure's severe flooding and extremely fragmented and dangerous road conditions. During heavy rainfall the excessive run-off water not only damages the Kannat Table Drive unpaved coral surface causes, it makes access roads impassable.

However, we are concerned with Section 3 of H.B. 20-45 which provides:

**Reservation of Public Lands.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Department of Public Lands **shall** consult with the Department of Public Works on the reservation of public lands for the design and construction of Routes 324 and 325 including access to fishing and hunting areas . . . . (Emphasis added).

It appears that this provision infringes on DPL's vested authority to manage and dispose of public lands pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the NMI Constitution and Public Law 15-2. Currently, there is a well-established procedure where the Department of Public Works ("DPW") initiates the process of identifying both public and private lands needed for the construction public roadways.

Therefore, we strongly recommend that section 3 be revised to reflect DPW's obligation to consult DPL with respect to identifying public lands needed for Route 324 and Route 325. Otherwise, this provision would infringe on DPL's authority over the management and disposition of public lands. Moreover, any decision in this regard should be delayed until the completion of a Comprehensive Public Land Use Plan, which will be complete in the next twenty-four (24) months in accordance with the mandate set forth in Public Law 15-2.

Sincerely,



Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo  
Secretary, DPL

/rss

cc: Honorable Governor  
Honorable Lt. Governor  
SAPLR  
Secretary, DPW



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Office of the Secretary of Public Works  
2<sup>nd</sup> floor - Gleai Joeten Commercial Center  
Saipan, MP 96950



April 12, 2017  
Serial No. PW17-0377

The Honorable Donald C. Barcinas  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation  
20<sup>th</sup> Northern Mariana Commonwealth Legislature  
P.O. Box 500586 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950

RECEIVED  
DATE/BY  
4/11/17  
Rep Barcinas

Subject: Comment on House Bill No. 20-045

Dear Honorable Chairman Barcinas:

The Department of Public Works supports House Bill No. 20-045 in its intent to establish additional routes within the CNMI, particularly the proposed route of 324 Laolao Bay Road and route 325 Kanat Tabla Road. As these proposed routes not only serve the interest of the public for an improved road standards, but will also seek eligibility in funding provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). DPW will work closely with FHWA, to prepare and provide needed documents that maybe required to classify new roadway routes.

Furthermore, the Department of Public Works, at this time, is unable to incorporate the proposed routes of 324 & 325 in the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) as it would require the Right-of-Way Certification by the Secretary of Public Works, which at this point is unattainable due to known property issues. As this maybe the case, the Department of Public Works, is ready to initiate the procedures and process in identifying specific encroachments through severance and survey works, when funds are made available.

Should you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division at telephone numbers 234-9828/9838.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES A. ADA  
Secretary of Public Works

cc: Director, Technical Services Division

**Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

**First Regular Session, 2017**

**H. B. 20-45, HD 1**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To establish two new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTIETH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Laulau Bay  
2 Drive has become a primary roadway for many residents on the Island of Saipan  
3 who have private homes along Laulau Bay Drive. The surrounding areas of  
4 Laulau Bay Drive are also expanding as many residents are developing their  
5 properties and building new homes. Moreover, business investors are also  
6 building new apartments and condominiums in the Laulau area thereby increasing  
7 the number of tenants traveling on Laulau Bay Drive.

8           The Legislature further finds that Laulau Bay Drive is an unpaved coral  
9 road and during rainy season the residents of the Laulau area must endure  
10 extremely fragmented and dangerous road conditions. The Legislature finds that  
11 the storm run-off water not only damages Laulau Bay Drive but it also flows right  
12 into Laulau Bay and adversely affects our coral reefs and other marine life on the  
13 eastern part of Saipan.

1           The Legislature finds that Laulau Bay Drive is also a vital alternative route  
2 to the village of Kagman in the event of an emergency situation that closes or  
3 blocks the primary road to Kagman. Presently, Kagman can only be accessed by  
4 one highway, Route 34 or Kagman Road. Establishing Laulau Bay Drive as a  
5 highway or Route 324 would greatly serve the residents of Laulau and Kagman by  
6 establishing a safe and efficient highway to access their homes, work  
7 establishments as well as other parts of Saipan.

8           The Legislature further finds that the population in the village of Kannat  
9 Tabla has grown tremendously over the past several years. The Legislature finds  
10 that the Kannat Tabla Drive is an unpaved coral road. Every rainy season the  
11 residents of the Kannat Tabla area endure severe flooding and extremely  
12 fragmented and dangerous road conditions.

13           During heavy rainfall, the Legislature finds that the excessive run-off  
14 water not only damages the Kannat Tabla Drive and other Kannat Tabla  
15 secondary and tertiary roads but also damages the neighboring areas and roads of  
16 Dandan and Chalan Kiya due flooding and debris streaming onto the road and  
17 surrounding areas.

18           The Legislature further finds that an alternative route from the Kannat  
19 Tabla to Chalan Kiya is necessary to accommodate the growing population of  
20 these areas and to promote the development of more homesteads and the  
21 construction of more homes, apartments, and condominiums. Presently, Kannat  
22 Tabla drive begins at the Isa Drive intersection in Kannat Tabla *and ends halfway*

1 between Kannat Tabla and the Chalan Kiya area. Kannat Tabla Drive must be  
2 established as a highway and extended to connect the highway to Chalan Pale  
3 Arnold in the Chalan Kiya area. Establishing Kannat Tabla Drive as a highway or  
4 Route 325 would significantly improve the transportation struggles of the  
5 residents of Kannat Tabla and create opportunities for more private housing and  
6 commercial housing development both in Kannat Tabla and Chalan Kiya.  
7 Therefore, the purpose of this legislation is to establish Laulau Bay Drive and  
8 Kannat Tabla Drive as highways in order promote economic development in these  
9 areas and, more importantly to provide more safe, efficient and economical  
10 transportation services for the residents of those areas as well as the entire  
11 residents of Saipan.

12           **Section 2. Establishment of New Highways on the Island of Saipan.**

13           **(a) Route 324 – Laulau Bay Drive.** There is hereby established on the  
14 island of Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 324 also known as  
15 Laulau Bay Drive in order to connect Laulau Bay Drive to Route 31 (Isa Drive)  
16 and Route 34 (Kagman Road). Route 324 shall commence at the Laulau Bay  
17 Drive and Isa Drive intersection in Laulau heading east following the existing  
18 road towards Laulau Beach and then north towards Kagman until the highway  
19 connects to Route 34 (Kagman Road) in Kagman.

20           **(b) Route 325 – Kannat Tabla Drive.** There is hereby established on the  
21 island of Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 325 also known as  
22 Kannat Tabla Drive in order to connect Kannat Tabla Drive to Route 31 (Isa

1 Drive) and Route 30 (Chalan Pale Arnold Road). Route 325 shall commence at  
2 the Kannat Tabla Drive and Isa Drive intersection in Kannat Tabla heading north  
3 following the existing road and down towards Nguus Street near McDonald's  
4 Restaurant in Chalan Kiya until the highway connects to Route 31 (Chalan Pale  
5 Arnold Road).

6 **Section 3. Reservation of Public Land.** Notwithstanding any provision  
7 of law to the contrary, the Department of Public Works~~Department of Public~~  
8 ~~Lands~~ shall consult with the Department of Public Lands~~Department of Public~~  
9 ~~Works~~ on the reservation of public lands for the design and construction of Routes  
10 324 and 325 including access to fishing and hunting areas, if necessary, and DPS  
11 enforcement and emergency response on the island of Saipan, and identification of  
12 sufficient funding for the projects.

13 **Section 4. TTIP and CIP Priority.**

14 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Department of Public  
15 Works shall include Routes 324 (Laulau Bay Drive) and 325 (Kannat Tabla  
16 Drive) on the Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan for the Commonwealth  
17 of the Northern Mariana Islands and prioritize the funding necessary for the  
18 construction of Routes 324 and 325 on the island of Saipan.

19 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Capital Improvement  
20 Project (CIP) Office shall collaborate with the Department of Public Works to  
21 prioritize the design and construction of Routes 324 and 325 for the island of  
22 Saipan. The CIP Office and the Department of Public Works, *Highway Division*

1 shall fund the design and construction of Routes 324 and 325 projects utilizing  
2 available CIP funds, federal highway funds, and Commonwealth and local funds  
3 appropriated for such projects.

4       **Section 5. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
5 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a  
6 court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
7 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
8 shall not be affected thereby.

9       **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
10 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
11 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
12 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
13 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
14 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
15 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

16       **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
17 the Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 2/22/17

Date: 2/22/17

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero  
/s/ Rep. Francisco C. Aguon  
/s/ Rep. Donald C. Barcinas  
/s/ Rep. Edwin K. Propst  
/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ John F. Cool  
House Legal Counsel