

**TWENTIETH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

6TH REGULAR Session, 2026

Y.C. Res. No. 20-**04**

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Commending the Administration of Marianas High School and Seisa Gakuen High School (formerly known as Miyazawa Gakuen) on the Occasion of Forty (40) Years of Cultural Exchange and Sister-School Partnership between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Japan.

1 **WHEREAS**, Marianas High School, located in Susupe, Saipan,
2 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has for four decades fostered a
3 meaningful and enduring sister-school relationship with Seisa Gakuen High School
4 of Japan, formerly known as Miyazawa Gakuen; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the sister-school partnership was established in the mid-1980s
6 by the late teacher Burt Thompson, and the late Yasuo Miyazawa, founder of the
7 SEISA Group with the shared vision of promoting intercultural understanding,
8 educational collaboration, and lasting friendship between the youth of the CNMI
9 and Japan; and

10 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, the exchange program has facilitated
11 reciprocal student visits, homestay experiences, cultural performances, classroom
12 collaborations, and community engagements that have allowed participants to
13 immerse themselves in each other's traditions, language, and way of life; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the forty-year partnership stands as one of the longest-running
2 educational and cultural exchange relationships in the Commonwealth, serving as
3 a living testament to the strong and historic ties between the people of the Northern
4 Mariana Islands and Japan; and

5 **WHEREAS**, throughout the decades, the program has celebrated numerous
6 milestones, including anniversary delegations, joint cultural showcases,
7 commemorative ceremonies, and sustained annual exchanges that have remained
8 resilient despite economic, social, and global challenges; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the continued success of this sister-school relationship has
10 been made possible through the leadership, dedication, and commitment of past and
11 present administrators, principals, exchange coordinators, teachers, chaperones,
12 host families, alumni participants, and community supporters from both Marianas
13 High School and Seisa Gakuen; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Congress recognizes that these exchanges have
15 provided students with transformative experiences that cultivate leadership,
16 cultural competence, academic enrichment, mutual respect, and global citizenship;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, the partnership has strengthened diplomatic goodwill and
19 people-to-people connections between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
20 Islands and Japan, reinforcing shared values of friendship, cooperation, and peace;
21 and

1 **WHEREAS**, as both schools celebrate forty (40) years of this distinguished
2 sister-school relationship, it is fitting and proper that this Body formally
3 acknowledge and commend this enduring legacy of cultural exchange;

4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Twentieth
5 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, that the Youth
6 Congress hereby commends and congratulates the administration of Marianas High
7 School and Seisa Gakuen High School (formerly Miyazawa Gakuen) on the
8 occasion of forty (40) years of sustained cultural exchange and partnership; and

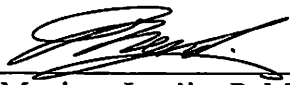
9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Youth Congress expresses its
10 profound appreciation to the educators, administrators, students, alumni, host
11 families, and community leaders who have been instrumental in nurturing and
12 sustaining this sister-school relationship over the past four decades; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Youth Congress recognizes the
14 invaluable contributions of this exchange program in fostering cross-cultural
15 understanding, youth leadership development, and strengthened bonds between the
16 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Japan; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
18 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
19 adoption of this resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified copy to the
20 Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives (24th
21 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); the Honorable Karl King-Nabors,
22 President of the Senate (24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); the

1 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern
2 Mariana Islands; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the
3 House of Representatives (119th United States Congress); and the Honorable Maisie
4 B. Tenorio (Chairman, 19th CNMI State Board of Education); Lawrence F.
5 Camacho, Ed.D, Commissioner of Education, CNMI Public School System;
6 Melanie S. Rdiall, Principal of Marianas High School and Katsuya Yabuki,
7 Resident Principal of Seisa Gakuen School.

Date: 02/21/2026

Introduced by: 
Senator Monique Lou'isa P. Mendiola