

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24-101

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To name the structure for the CNMI Women’s Association Center as the “Felicidad Taman Ogumoro Women’s Development Center”; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the CNMI  
2 Women’s Association has been an essential non-profit office whose vision is that  
3 women are fully engaged in the political, economic, and social development of the  
4 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI.) As a part of its mission  
5 to uplift and empower the women of the CNMI, this Legislative body deems it  
6 fitting to formally name the CNMI Women’s Association Center in honor of the  
7 late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro.

8           The late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was a paragon of  
9 altruistic public service and generous community enrichment throughout her  
10 illustrious life, especially for the women of the CNMI. Examples of her  
11 distinguished career as a public servant spans many years. In 1978, the late  
12 Honorable Felicidad Ogumoro became the first woman of Carolinian heritage to be

1 elected to the House of Representatives of the First Northern Marianas  
2 Commonwealth Legislature, representing Precinct no. 5 of the Third Senatorial  
3 District in the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislatures.

4 As an immensely influential legislative pioneer, she was instrumental in  
5 several bills, resolutions, and initiatives, some of which including author of  
6 Constitutional Amendment 21, establishing the Office of Special Assistant for  
7 Women's Affairs; author of PL 17-040, establishing Northern Marianas Decent  
8 Registry; co-founder and member, CNMI Women's Association (CWA); co-  
9 founder and member, Northern Marianas Descent Corporation; author of duly  
10 adopted House Joint Resolution 18-01 requesting U.S. Congress to recognize  
11 persons of Northern Marianas Descent (NMDs) ancestral rights to submerged  
12 lands; and author of Public Law 19-63, creating the second Marianas Political  
13 Status Commission.

14 As a generous and selfless advocate for the local community, she was  
15 involved in numerous purposeful community organizations, boards, and  
16 associations. Notable contributions include member, of the Chief Aghurubw  
17 Foundation; Board Member and Treasurer of the Northern Marianas Descent  
18 Corporation; Member; Vice President of the Marianas Alliance of NGO's; and Vice  
19 President of the United Carolinians Association.

20 As a lifelong champion for women, she was President of the Saipan  
21 Women's Association from 1975 to 1976, a recipient of the Outstanding Woman

1 of America Award in 1985, and Program Administrator for the CNMI Women’s  
2 Association 2017 to 2021.

3 As a steadfast forerunner of the CNMI Women’s Association, the late  
4 Honorable Felicidad Ogumoro envisioned, persevered, and charged forward to  
5 fundraise, encourage, and partner with others to revitalize and reinvigorate the  
6 CNMI Women’s Association Center with grace, optimism, and humility. She is an  
7 unmistakable visionary who led by strong, unwavering example and will continue  
8 to inspire the women of the CNMI for generations to come. Therefore, the purpose  
9 of this Act is to aptly dedicate and name the CNMI Women’s Association Center  
10 to the “Felicidad Taman Ogumoro Women’s Association Development Center.”

11 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws or regulations to the  
12 contrary and subject to codification by the CNMI Law Revision Commission, the  
13 following provisions shall hereby be enacted:

14 **“§101. Felicidad Taman Ogumoro Women’s Association Development  
15 Center.**

16 The structure for the CNMI Women’s Association Center is hereby named  
17 the “Felicidad Taman Ogumoro Women’s Association Development  
18 Center”.”

19 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
20 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
21 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its

1 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
2 shall not be affected thereby.

3       **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
4 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
5 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
6 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
7 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
8 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
9 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

10       **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by  
11 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

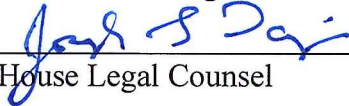
Prefiled: 2/20/2024

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 2.20.26