

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SESSION, 2026

H. J. R. 24-12

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To require legislative representation and oversight in Section 902 consultations by including the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as Special Representatives of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes

1 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature finds that Section 902 of the Covenant
2 establishes a government-to-government consultation process to address matters
3 affecting the political and economic relationship between the Commonwealth of
4 the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the elected legislative leadership, as representatives of the
6 people and the body responsible for lawmaking, should participate in such
7 consultations to ensure full legislative oversight, protect the interests of the
8 Commonwealth, and promote transparency and coordination among branches of
9 government; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the sole purpose of this resolution is to require inclusion of
11 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or

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1 their designees, as members of the Commonwealth's official Section 902
2 consultation delegation; and

3 **WHEREAS**, whenever Section 902 consultations are invoked by the
4 Governor or requested by the President of the United States, the Governor shall
5 designate a Commonwealth Special Representative team for those consultations;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Governor's Special Representative team must include the
8 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives as Special
9 Representatives of the Commonwealth; and

10 **WHEREAS**, if either the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the
11 House is unable to attend or participate, that officer shall have the sole authority to
12 appoint one designee from their respective chamber to serve in their place for the
13 relevant consultation; and

14 **WHEREAS**, any designee must be a sitting member of the respective
15 chamber; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the legislative Special Representatives and their designees
17 shall have full access to all consultation deliberations, materials, documents,
18 briefings, and reports generated in connection with Section 902 consultations,
19 subject to any confidentiality protections or executive privilege properly applicable
20 to the consultation process; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, these legislative representatives shall be permitted to
2 participate in deliberations, raise questions, and offer recommendations consistent
3 with their role as Special Representatives of the Commonwealth; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Governor or the Governor's authorized lead designee shall
5 coordinate with the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House (or their
6 designees) to ensure timely notice of scheduled consultations and to arrange pre-
7 consultation briefings as appropriate; and

8 **WHEREAS**, within thirty days after the conclusion of each Section 902
9 consultation in which the Commonwealth participates, the Governor shall provide
10 both chambers of the Legislature with a written summary of consultation outcomes,
11 agreements, and any proposed actions that affect Commonwealth law, policy,
12 budgets, or sovereignty, except to the extent restricted by confidentiality or national
13 security considerations; and

14 **WHEREAS**, when confidential information is withheld, the Governor shall
15 provide a classified or restricted briefing to the legislative leadership or to any
16 legislative committee designated by them, consistent with applicable law and
17 security protocols; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the legislative members of the Commonwealth's Section 902
19 consultation team shall provide periodic updates to their respective chambers on
20 the status and progress of consultations, subject to applicable confidentiality
21 obligations; and

1 **WHEREAS**, any agreement or memorandum of understanding resulting
2 from Section 902 consultations that requires changes to Commonwealth law, the
3 appropriation of funds, or affects public policy shall be submitted to the Legislature
4 for review and, where required by law, for approval before such agreement takes
5 effect within the Commonwealth; and

6 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
7 Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
8 Commonwealth Legislature to require legislative representation and oversight in
9 Section 902 consultations by including the President of the Senate and the Speaker
10 of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as Special Representatives of
11 the Commonwealth.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
13 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk
14 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
15 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
16 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
17 Islands; and Honorable Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the 119th
18 United States Congress.

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Prefiled: 4/8/2024

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

[Signature]
House Legal Counsel

Date: 4-8-26

[Multiple handwritten signatures in blue ink]