

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Session, 2026

H. J. R. 24- 13

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To affirm the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' commitment to eliminate the commercial facilitation of birth tourism as evidenced by the enactment of the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act ("BIRTH Act"); to present updated data demonstrating the effectiveness of existing federal and local measures; and to request continued federal coordination consistent with those efforts.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern
2 Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America recognizes
3 United States sovereignty while guaranteeing the Commonwealth a substantial
4 measure of local self-government; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Article IX, Section 902 of the Covenant provides for
6 consultation between the Government of the United States and the Government of
7 the Commonwealth on matters affecting the economic and social well-being of the
8 Commonwealth; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth remains committed to cooperation with the
10 United States in maintaining the integrity of federal immigration systems while
11 preserving the constitutional guarantees that apply within the Commonwealth; and

12

1 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognizes that so-called “birth tourism,” more
2 precisely described as the compensated commercial facilitation of travel for the
3 primary purpose of childbirth, is materially distinct from lawful tourism and
4 undermines confidence in immigration systems when driven by organized
5 commercial enterprises; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature further recognizes that the appropriate response
7 lies not in restricting constitutional birthright citizenship, but in targeting the
8 commercial machinery, fraud, and profiteering that drive such practices; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature has before it House Bill 24-105, the Business
10 Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act (“BIRTH Act”), a uniquely tailored
11 statute that prohibits compensated commercial birth tourism facilitation,
12 criminalizes deceptive practices, regulates maternity housing, and provides both
13 civil and criminal enforcement tools while expressly preserving federal authority
14 over immigration and citizenship;

15 **WHEREAS**, the BIRTH Act reflects a deliberate and constitutionally
16 grounded approach that focuses on business regulation, consumer protection, and
17 fraud prevention, rather than immigration control, thereby aligning Commonwealth
18 action with federal law and policy; and

19 **WHEREAS**, official data from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
20 (CHCC) Health & Vital Statistics Office demonstrates that tourist births in the
21 Commonwealth have declined by approximately ninety-two percent (92%), from a

1 peak of 581 births in 2018 to 47 births in 2025, representing approximately eight
2 percent (8%) of total deliveries and fewer than four births per month;

3 **WHEREAS**, current CHCC obstetric utilization reflects approximately
4 forty-four percent (44%) of 2018 capacity levels, and available data does not
5 support claims that tourist births presently impose a significant strain on the
6 Commonwealth's healthcare system;

7 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature finds that the substantial decline in tourist births
8 corresponds with prior federal visa policy changes and demonstrates that
9 coordinated federal and local measures can effectively reduce birth tourism; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature affirms that birthright citizenship is guaranteed
11 under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, the
12 Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the
13 Covenant, and that enforcement efforts must not diminish or redefine that
14 constitutional right; and

15 **WHEREAS**, immigration enforcement in the Commonwealth is
16 administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security and United
17 States Customs and Border Protection, and the Commonwealth's role is to
18 complement those efforts through lawful regulation of commercial activity within
19 its jurisdiction; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature intends through this Resolution to demonstrate
21 that the Commonwealth has taken concrete, enforceable legislative action to

1 eliminate commercial birth tourism operations and stands ready to support
2 continued federal enforcement efforts;

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of
4 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
5 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature hereby affirms the
6 Commonwealth's commitment to eliminating the commercial facilitation of birth
7 tourism through the enactment and enforcement of the BIRTH Act; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature respectfully requests
9 that the Government of the United States, including the Department of Homeland
10 Security and United States Customs and Border Protection, continue to strengthen
11 and consistently apply existing standards governing temporary entry, discretionary
12 parole, and visitor admissions to deter travel undertaken primarily for childbirth
13 where lawful criteria are not satisfied; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature requests continued
15 coordination between federal agencies and the Commonwealth to ensure effective
16 enforcement against fraud, misrepresentation, and commercial facilitation schemes
17 associated with birth tourism; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature emphasizes that the
19 Commonwealth's enactment of the BIRTH Act demonstrates that local
20 enforcement mechanisms—when aligned with federal policy—can effectively
21 address birth tourism without infringing upon constitutional rights; and
22

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of
 2 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk
 3 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
 4 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
 5 President of the United States; the appropriate committees of the United States
 6 Congress; the Secretary of Homeland Security; the Governor of the Commonwealth
 7 of the Northern Mariana Islands; the President of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth
 8 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Mayors of the Municipalities
 9 of Rota, Tinian and Aguiguan, Saipan, and the Northern Islands; and the CNMI
 10 Delegate to the United States Congress.

11
 Prefiled: 4/10/2026

Date: 04/10/2026 Introduced By: Rep. Marissa R. Flores

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Karin [Signature]
 House Legal Counsel

Date: 4-9-26

[Multiple signatures in blue ink, including Rep. Marissa R. Flores and others]