

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

SESSION, 2025

H. J. R. 24-8

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To urge the United States to take immediate and comprehensive action to identify, remove, and safely dispose of World War II-era unexploded ordnance throughout the Northern Mariana Islands.

1 **WHEREAS**, during World War II, the United States military conducted
2 extensive operations in the Northern Mariana Islands, which left behind
3 unexploded ordnance (UXO) and other discarded munitions; and

4 **WHEREAS**, many of those munitions remain buried, scattered, or
5 submerged, and are still found in residential areas, construction zones, beaches, and
6 public lands, often without warning or documentation of their presence; and

7 **WHEREAS**, historical estimates from the United States Department of
8 Defense and the United States Navy indicate that as much as 25 percent of the
9 ordnance used during the war failed to detonate as intended, reflecting both the
10 scale of contamination and the likelihood that undiscovered hazards remain
11 throughout the islands; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the continuing danger of UXO is evidenced by its discovery
2 during the 2019 recovery operation at American Memorial Park after Tropical
3 Storm Krosa and during community cleanups following Super Typhoon Yutu; and

4 **WHEREAS**, currently, the Department of Defense responds to the
5 presence of UXO in the Northern Mariana Islands primarily through emergency
6 response protocols, deploying explosive ordnance disposal teams to address
7 hazards when they are discovered or reported; and

8 **WHEREAS**, while such responses may neutralize immediate threats, they
9 do not extend to comprehensive site investigations, hazard assessments, or long-
10 term cleanup planning, leaving the broader problem unremedied; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the current approach shifts the costs and risks of legacy
12 ordnance from the federal government to the Government of the Commonwealth
13 of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), which, under its current Memorandum of
14 Understanding with Joint Region Marianas, is required to cover lodging, travel, and
15 logistical support for federal explosive ordnance disposal teams; and

16 **WHEREAS**, imposing such costs on the CNMI is both unsustainable and
17 inequitable, especially when consideration is given to the fact that, under the
18 Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) program, the federal government funds the
19 remediation of similar hazards for the individual States;

20 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of
21 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth

1 Legislature urges the United States to take immediate and comprehensive action to
2 identify, remove, and safely dispose of World War II-era UXO throughout the
3 Northern Mariana Islands; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives
5 supports the efforts of the Honorable Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, Delegate to the
6 United States House of Representatives, in seeking clarification from the United
7 States regarding the application of the FUDS program and funding eligibility; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives
9 declares it inequitable and unsustainable for the Commonwealth to shoulder the
10 costs of UXO remediation, and calls upon the Department of Defense to bear those
11 costs in full, consistent with its practice in the states; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the House of Representatives urges
13 the United States Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, and the U.S.
14 Army Corps of Engineers to provide clear, written guidance on the use of the FUDS
15 program, the Military Munitions Response Program, and any other federal resource
16 that could support the comprehensive cleanup of UXO in the Commonwealth; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
18 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this
19 Resolution, and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit certified copies to the
20 Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Pete
21 Hegseth, Secretary of Defense; the Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll, Secretary of the

1 Army; Lieutenant General William H. Graham, Jr., Commanding General of the
2 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Kimberlyn K.
4 King-Hinds, Delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to
5 the United States House of Representatives, 119th United States Congress; and the
6 Honorable Karl Rosario King-Nabors, President of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth
7 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

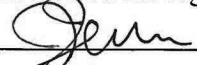
Prefiled: 9/4/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

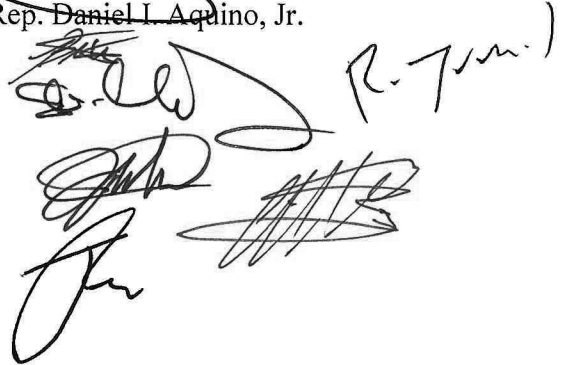

Rep. Daniel I. Aquino, Jr.

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:



House Legal Counsel

Date: September 4, 2025


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