

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

SESSION, 2025

H. Res. 24-15

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To honor and express our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Noboru Hirayama who has greatly contributed to the preservation and promotion of Japanese and Saipan history in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his work in the reconstruction of the Saipan Katori Shrine.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Legislature recognizes individuals who have diligently
2 devoted their time to the cultural and historical preservation and promotion of
3 significant historical landmarks for the benefit of the people in the Commonwealth
4 of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Noboru Hirayama was an incredible example of someone
6 who has demonstrated his earnest commitment of cultural and historical longevity
7 through the reconstruction of the Saipan Katori Shrine; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hirayama was born on October 7, 1932, and graduated
9 from Omigawa High School in Chiba Prefecture in March 1945; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hirayama built an established career in the Building
11 Materials Department of Matsumotoya Corporation from April 1957 to March
12 1968, when he resigned as section chief. He also served as the Secretary to House

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1 of Representatives, Honorable Kiyoshi Mizuno (the former Minister of
2 Construction) in the National Diet of the House of Representatives from October
3 1969 to October 1971, and as the sales manager of Mizuno Construction Company
4 Ltd. in October 1971; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hirayama's career at Kyowa Construction Industry
6 Company Ltd has been marked by his dedication and commitment, which began
7 with his appointment as Director in September 1982 and his subsequent
8 appointment as Representative Director in February 1987; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Katori Shrine was founded in 1914, originally built by the
10 Imperial Japanese Navy, it was named after the battleship Katori and the Katori
11 Shrine in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, and later renamed “Saipan Shrine” to signify the
12 shrine as a guardian deity of the island of Saipan during a time when the people of
13 Saipan and the Japanese worked together to develop agriculture, fishing, and other
14 industries; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Saipan Katori Shrine was a significant cultural and
16 historical symbol of peace and cooperation during significant historical moments,
17 such as the establishment of a public school for the education of the children of
18 Saipan, the island's exports exceeding twice the amount of imports in 1931, and the
19 shrine serving as a site for spiritual exchange between the people of Saipan and the
20 Japanese, a source of fond childhood memories to this day; and

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1 **WHEREAS**, the Saipan Katori Shrine signifies a time when the people of
2 the CNMI and the Japanese collaborated to create a paradise in the Pacific Ocean.
3 While the unfortunate history of the Pacific War remains, it embodies the proud
4 and positive elements of the joint history between the CNMI and Japan; and

5 **WHEREAS**, on September 7, 1985, the Saipan Katori Shrine's
6 groundbreaking ceremony was held and attended by the Honorable Governor Pedro
7 P. Tenorio, Managing Director Mr. J.M. Guerrero, personnel of the Kyowa
8 Construction Co., Ltd., and the Katori Shrine Chief Priest Nukaga Hironari; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Saipan Katori Shrine Restoration Celebration was held on
10 November 19, 1985, with over one hundred individuals in attendance, including the
11 Honorable Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, the heads and representatives of
12 government departments, Consul Kamagata, Consular Office of Japan, Mr. Sasaki,
13 President of the Japanese Society, and the Kyowa Construction Company, Limited
14 Parties; and

15 **WHEREAS**, plans for future enhancements, include the construction of a
16 Torii gate, the installation of a memorial structure, and the continued development
17 of the Katori Shrine; and

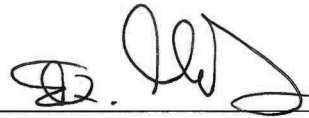
18 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Hirayama's purposeful work to safeguard the Saipan
19 Katori Shrine, a significant and remarkable symbol of the history, legacy, and
20 ongoing collaboration between the CNMI and Japan, are deeply valued by the
21 people of the CNMI and will be recognized by future generations;

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
2 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
3 Legislature that House expresses our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Noboru Hirayama
4 who has greatly contributed to the preservation and promotion of Japanese and
5 Saipan history in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his
6 work in the reconstruction of the Saipan Katori Shrine; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
8 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this
9 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Mr.
10 Hitoshi Hirayama, son of Mr. Noboru Hirayama; the Honorable David M. Apatang,
11 Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable
12 Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives,
13 119th United States Congress; and the Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, Senate
14 President, 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

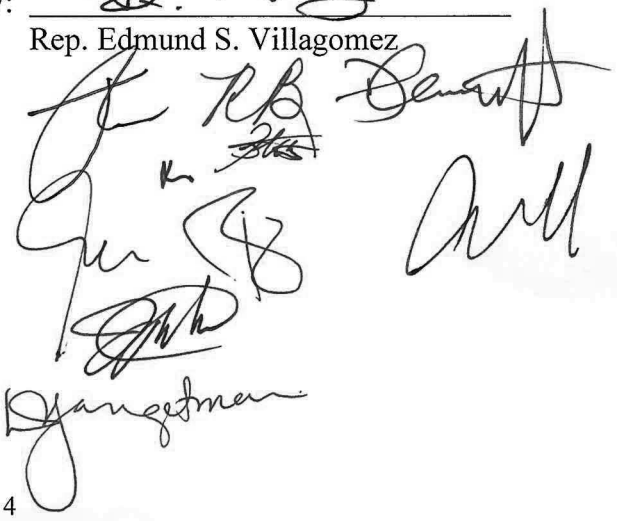
Prefiled: 10-17-2025

Date: _____ Introduced by: 
Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 10.17.25


D. Villagomez
D. Apatang
K. King-Hinds
K. King-Nabors