

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

SESSION, 2025

H. Res. 24-18

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To deeply honor and celebrate the impactful life and indelible legacy of the late Honorable Benigno Magofna Sablan, whose tireless dedication and myriad contributions were instrumental to the progress of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to humbly offer our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

1 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body recognizes that the prosperity and
2 character of life within our esteemed Commonwealth are profoundly strengthened
3 by the steadfast commitment and altruistic efforts of remarkable citizens who
4 dedicate themselves to public service; and

5 **WHEREAS**, it is with deep respect that this Legislative Body, representing
6 the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands, gathers today to honor the memory
7 and celebrate the remarkable life and public service of the late Honorable Benigno
8 Magofna Sablan, whose significant contributions and exemplary work have greatly
9 elevated the quality and well-being of our community; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan, affectionately known
11 as “Tan Ninu,” was born on February 27, 1946, on Saipan, the cherished son of the
12 late Mr. Jose Repeki Sablan and Mrs. Clara Magofna Sablan; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the life of the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan was deeply
2 enriched by his unwavering commitment to family, exemplified through his
3 beloved wife, Mira DeBrum Sablan, their children—Ellia D. Sablan, Oscar D.
4 Sablan, Clarissa D. Sablan, Tanya D. Sablan, Benigno D. Sablan Jr., Ymanuel D.
5 Sablan, and Aesha D. Sablan—and their loving grandchildren; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan demonstrated strong
7 academic foundations as a distinguished Hopwood Jr. High School graduate in
8 Saipan; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the extensive and diverse career of the late Honorable
10 Benigno M. Sablan began in 1964 when he served as a Junior Clerk for Medical
11 Services in Saipan; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan served as an
13 Elementary School Teacher for the Department of Education in Saipan and Tinian
14 from 1966 to 1970; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan contributed
16 significantly to marine conservation as a Master Diver for the Starfish Control
17 Program in Saipan (1970), the Marshall Islands (1970–1972), and the Department
18 of Marine Resources in Kolonia, Pohnpei (1972–1973), a role that involved
19 eradicating the infestation of the crown-of-thorns starfish and collecting marine and
20 estuary specimens for scientific study; and

1 **WHEREAS**, applying his scientific expertise, the late Honorable Benigno
2 M. Sablan worked as a Fishery Specialist for the Department of Marine Resources
3 in Kolonia, Pohnpei (1973–1979); and

4 **WHEREAS**, demonstrating lifelong dedication to learning, the late
5 Honorable Benigno M. Sablan pursued higher education and earned a Bachelor of
6 Science degree in Fisheries Science from Oregon State University in June 1981;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, after earning his degree, the late Honorable Benigno M.
9 Sablan continued his contributions as a Fishery Specialist III (Biology) for the
10 CNMI Department of Natural Resources (1981–1984); and

11 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan’s dedication to public
12 service led to the late his election as a Member of the House of Representatives for
13 three consecutive terms (Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Legislatures) from January 1984
14 to January 1990, during which he served as Vice-Speaker and Chairman of the
15 House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations; and

16 **WHEREAS**, during the period between his legislative service and
17 subsequent leadership roles, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan gained valuable
18 experience as a fisherman and businessman from 1990 to 1994; and

19 **WHEREAS**, demonstrating exceptional qualifications and a profound
20 understanding of natural resources, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan’s public
21 service commitment continued, and he was initially announced as a prospective

1 Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Governor Froilan C. Tenorio
2 on January 10, 1994; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio formally nominated the late
4 Honorable Benigno M. Sablan on January 22, 1994, for the position of Director of
5 the Department of Natural Resources; and

6 **WHEREAS**, prior to the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan's
7 confirmation, he received extensive support from the legislative body, including
8 the adoption of House Resolution No. 9-13 on February 17, 1994, expressing
9 overwhelming support for his appointment as Director; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan was subsequently
11 confirmed by the Senate as Director of the Department of Natural Resources on
12 April 7, 1994, and held the position as Secretary of the CNMI Department of Lands
13 and Natural Resources until February 17, 1997; and

14 **WHEREAS**, following his confirmation, the Ninth Northern Marianas
15 Commonwealth Legislature adopted House Resolution No. 9-37 on May 3, 1994,
16 extending sincere congratulations to the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan, on his
17 confirmation; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the leadership of the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan as
19 Secretary was further recognized in February 1995 when House Resolution No. 9-
20 83 was transmitted him, respectfully requesting the designation of Public Land Lot
21 No. 005-1-565 as the Koblerville Recreational Area; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan also held U.S.
2 Merchant Marine Officer licenses for steam, motor, and auxiliary sailing vessels,
3 as well as a Lifetime Status Marine Radio Operator Permit from the Federal
4 Communications Commission, effective January 12, 2009. These credentials
5 underscore his deep connection to the marine environment and his versatile skill
6 set (Merchant Marine licenses held from 2006 to 2011); and

7 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan’s commitment to the
8 Commonwealth continued with his appointments in August 2008 and June 2009 by
9 Governor Benigno R. Fitial, serving as a member of the Commonwealth Ports
10 Authority (CPA) to represent Saipan, where he held leadership roles including
11 Chairman of the Seaport Facility Standing Committee, CPA Vice-Chair, and CPA
12 Chair Appeals Committee from July 2, 2009, to July 2, 2014; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan’s extensive
14 contributions include serving as a Council Member for the Western Pacific
15 Regional Fishery Council (including a term from August 1, 2002, to August 10,
16 2011), Chairman of the Marianas Trench Marine (2010-2014), Chairman of the
17 Saipan and Northern Islands Soil & Water Conservation District, and Treasurer and
18 Vice President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL); and

19 **WHEREAS**, throughout his career, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan
20 consistently exemplified outstanding leadership, management, and administrative
21 abilities, always striving for the betterment of the Commonwealth; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan’s unwavering
2 advocacy for the protection and stewardship of our lands and natural resources
3 profoundly shaped policies and inspired future generations; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan will be forever
5 remembered as a humble leader, a dedicated family man, and a selfless public
6 servant who served with distinction, honor, and pride, inspired by love for his
7 family, his community, and the CNMI; and

8 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body is honored to pay tribute to the humble
9 and dedicated late Honorable Benigno M. Sablan, whose selfless service greatly
10 benefited our Commonwealth and left a lasting legacy that continues to inspire, and
11 whose absence will be deeply felt, rightly deserves this heartfelt recognition for the
12 profound impact he made; and

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
14 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
15 Legislature that the House deeply honors and celebrates the impactful life and
16 indelible legacy of the late Honorable Benigno Magofna Sablan, whose tireless
17 dedication and myriad contributions were instrumental to the progress of the
18 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to humbly offer our heartfelt
19 condolences to his bereaved family; and


20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this

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1 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
2 bereaved family of the late Honorable Benigno Magofna Sablan; Honorable David
3 M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
4 Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth Northern
5 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds,
6 CNMI Delegate to the 119th United States Congress.

Prefiled: 11/21/2018

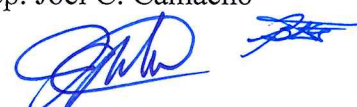

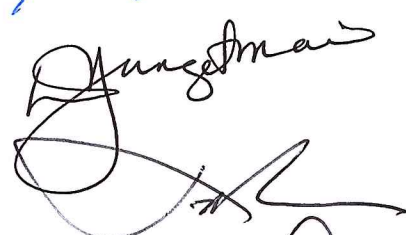
Date: _____

Introduced by: 
Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 11-21-25



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Dungman

M. A. C.
