

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2025

S.J.R. NO. 24-03

A SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

To support the passage of H.R. 2132, which aims to reestablish eligibility for NMI Airports to participate in the Essential Air Service.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI” or
2 “NMI”) has struggled for decades with affordable and reliable means of air travel between
3 the NMI’s most populated islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, unlike the states within the continental United States, the islands
5 within the NMI are separated by the ocean so our residents cannot easily travel and must
6 use air or sea transportation for their daily activities and necessities; and

7 **WHEREAS**, due to the rough waters and distance between the islands, sea
8 transportation is not reliable and regular sea transportation options are not readily available
9 to the residents of the NMI; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in order to address the NMI’s transportation problems,
11 Congresswoman Kimberlyn King-Hinds has introduced H.R.2132, a landmark bill aimed
12 at reestablishing eligibility for Northern Marianas airports to participate in the U.S.
13 Department of Transportation’s Essential Air Service (EAS) Program; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Essential Air Service was created in the Airline Deregulation Act of
15 1978 (P.L. 95–504) to ensure that small, rural U.S. communities, once served by
16 certificated airlines prior to deregulation, maintain vital air service connections. The
17 program was intended to prevent airlines from abandoning less profitable, low-traffic
18 communities in favor of larger, more lucrative markets. In 1978, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan
19 were all designated as eligible for EAS assistance; and

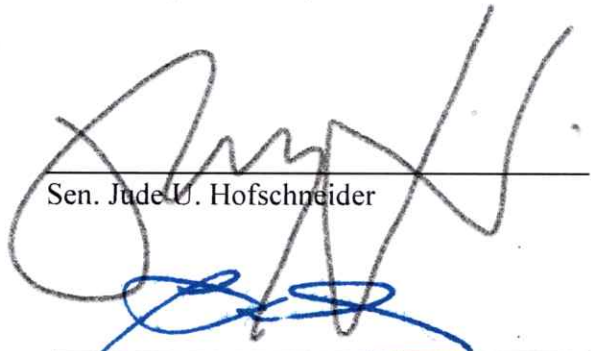
20 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI previously benefited from this program, with Continental
21 Air Micronesia receiving temporary EAS subsidies in 1982 and 1984 to provide air service

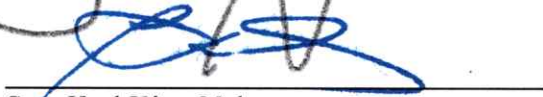
1 supports Congresswoman Kimberlyn King-Hinds' legislation for the NMI to participate in
2 the Essential Air Service;

3 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth
4 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the House concurring, that both houses of
5 the Legislature hereby support the passage of H.R. 2132, which aims to reestablish
6 eligibility for NMI Airports to participate in the Essential Air Service; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the President of the Senate and the Speaker
8 of the House of Representatives shall certify, and the Senate Legislative Secretary and the
9 House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this joint resolution, and thereafter the Senate
10 Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
11 of Representatives, 119th United States Congress; the Honorable Troy E. Nehls, Chairman
12 of the Subcommittee on Aviation, 119th United States Congress; the Honorable Kimberlyn
13 King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives Washington, 119th United
14 States Congress; the Honorable J.D. Vance, President of the Senate, 119th United States
15 Congress; the Honorable Chuck Grassley, Senate President Pro Tempore, 119th United
16 States Congress; and the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor, Commonwealth of the
17 Northern Mariana Islands.

Date: 4/22/25



Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider


Sen. Karl King-Nabors

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz

80

Sen. Dennis C. Mendiola

Sen. Ronnie M. Calvo

Sen. Donald M. Manglona

Sen. Manny T. Castro

Sen. Corina L. Magofna

