

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

Third Spec. SESSION, 2025

S.R. NO. 24-05

A SENATE RESOLUTION

To recognize and congratulate Stephanie Espartero Diaz for her remarkable educational achievements and for proudly representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in academic science-related programs.

1 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body is honored to recognize young leaders who
2 pursue academic excellence, fueled by their passion to contribute to the community, and
3 those who have supported their academic journey; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz is the beloved granddaughter of paternal
5 grandparents John David Diaz and †Dolores Mangloña Diaz and maternal grandparents
6 Ramon Geagoni Espartero and †Dolores Perez, and the proud daughter of Ryan Dave
7 Mangloña Diaz and Tessa Espartero Diaz; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz was raised on the beautiful island of Tinian
9 alongside her siblings, Nicole Diaz and Ryana Palacios, who were instilled with the
10 significance of a strong educational foundation, service to one's community, and a life
11 grounded in respect and humility shared with family, friends, and her beloved community;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, growing up with the traditional values and rich culture of Tinian,
14 Stephanie Espartero Diaz's interest was sparked by mentors who encouraged and supported
15 her in the field of science, where she connected her passion for learning to her stomping
16 grounds of the island that raised her; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in June 2023, Stephanie Espartero Diaz proudly represented the
18 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in the Native Youth Climate
19 Adaptation Leadership Congress in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where she explored
20 culture, tradition, and science as a descendant of indigenous heritage; and

1 **WHEREAS**, with the support of her community and commitment to personal
2 growth, Stephanie Espartero Diaz joined generations of youth ambassadors who have
3 represented the CNMI in the Junior State of America at Stanford University, from July
4 2023 to August 2023, where she cultivated democratic leadership skills, developed respect
5 for opposing views, challenged others to think critically, and learned to prioritize the public
6 good above self-interest; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in July 2024, Stephanie Espartero Diaz won third place in the 2024
8 My Marianas Writing Contest with her eloquent piece about her beloved home island of
9 Tinian, in which she expressed, “[...] *The home of luscious beaches, where your toes dig*
10 *into the sand, your ears are treated to the wonderful sounds of waves crashing, and your*
11 *soul is immersed in the scorching, humid air... I hear the ocean air whisper the stories of*
12 *many generations before. There, I see my Chamorro heritage which I ground myself in. I*
13 *see the gift of traditions and values woven into the very foundation of who I am. [...]*”; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz has made significant contributions to the
15 preservation of our indigenous culture by conducting interviews with *man̄amko*’ to explore
16 their perspectives on values and community in the Northern Mariana Islands, as part of her
17 involvement in the *Inafa’māolik – Tipiyeew* Matters Project through the Northern Marianas
18 Humanities Council; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz had the incredible opportunity to work as a
20 summer research intern in the Short-Term Experience Program to Unlock Potential (STEP-
21 UP) under the mentorship of her science teacher, Dr. Conrad Kiyoshi, from June to August
22 2024, where she researched the cultivation of *Brachionus rotundiformis*, a microscopic
23 zooplankton, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz’s dedication to research opened doors of
25 opportunity to present her project on various platforms, including the National STEP-UP
26 Symposium in Bethesda, Maryland, in August 2024; being named a National STEM
27 Festival Finalist, in November 2024; and the distinct honor of being one of the first
28 representatives from the CNMI to participate in the Regional Junior Science and
29 Humanities Symposium in Hilo, Hawai’i, in January 2025; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz developed essential time management
2 skills while volunteering at population health programs under the Tinian Health Center and
3 working at the Grants and Projects Management Division under Carl Espinosa and the
4 External Affairs Division under Melanie Cruz, through the Summer Youth Employment
5 Program, from July to August 2022; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in June 2025, Stephanie Espartero Diaz proudly graduated as a
7 stallion from Tinian High School's Class of 2025 and was recognized as the Class
8 Valedictorian. She is the humble recipient of the CNMI State Board of Education
9 Academic Excellence Award, the Governor's Leadership Award, and the Scholarship
10 Award recipient of one of the National Honor Society Pillar Awards, presented to four
11 students for demonstrating excellence in character, scholarship, leadership, and service;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz is set to sail on her next journey to pursue
14 a degree at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in a science-related field, to
15 further contribute to the field of science for the Pacific region; and


16 **WHEREAS**, Stephanie Espartero Diaz finds solace in the cherished moments
17 spent with family and friends; humbly acknowledges the selfless support and guidance of
18 her mentors and the leadership of the CNMI; and remains grounded in her roots as a
19 daughter of Tinian; and

20 **WHEREAS**, adding to the growing list of innovative young individuals in the
21 CNMI, Stephanie Espartero Diaz has successfully placed the CNMI at the forefront of the
22 science field and serves as an advocate among the youth to engage in scientific concepts,
23 inspiring future generations of thinkers and problem solvers;

24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth
25 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the Senate hereby joins the people of
26 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in recognizing and congratulating
27 Stephanie Espartero Diaz for her outstanding educational achievements and proudly
28 representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the vast wonders of
29 science; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall certify, and
2 the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter
3 the Senate Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Stephanie Espartero Diaz; the Honorable
4 Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; the
5 Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Twenty-
6 Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-
7 Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives Washington, 119th United States
8 Congress; the Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and
9 Aguiguan; and the Honorable Joseph E. Santos, Chairman of the 20th Tinian Municipal
10 Council.

Date: 6/20/2025

Introduced By: 
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider