

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

11th REGULAR Session, 2024

Y.C. Res. No. 19- **30**

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Commending Ms. Stephanie Diaz for her remarkable
efforts in STEM during the 2024 Summer STEP-UP
Program.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Short Term Experience Program to Unlock Potential
2 (STEP-UP) is a federally funded program through the National Institutes of Health;
3 and

4 **WHEREAS**, the program aims to allow underrepresented high school
5 students to engage in hands-on biomedical and behavioral science research studies;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Stephanie Diaz, a current 12th grader at Tinian Jr.-Sr.
8 High School, was among the five students in the CNMI to be accepted into this
9 prestigious program in March of 2024; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Diaz worked tirelessly during the 8-week program at
11 Northern Marianas College and Tinian High School during the summer of her
12 acceptance; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Diaz’s project is called “Cultivating Brachionus
2 Rotundiformis with Different Levels of Salinity and Temperature,” which
3 researched various optimal conditions for growing rotifers; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in her studies, Ms. Diaz found that having lower salinity
5 levels when growing rotifers caused a negative impact on their population growth.
6 She also found that although higher water temperature environments produced a
7 significantly a higher population, the rotifers appeared smaller and thinner than
8 other cultivations; and

9 **WHEREAS**, after weeks of rigorous research, Ms. Diaz presented her
10 research project at the National STEP-UP Symposium in Bethesda, Maryland in
11 August; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Diaz aims to continue her research through the STEP-UP
13 Program or through an independent study to investigate more aquaculture efforts
14 crucial to the CNMI’s abundant sea life; and

15 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Diaz extends her deepest appreciation to the STEP-UP
16 coordinators, her mentors, friends, and families for their uplifting motivation
17 throughout her journey as a young scientist; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Diaz has expressed her commitment to reshaping the
19 image of STEM in the Pacific and expanding her knowledge in scientific research
20 in college. She hopes to inspire other students to engage in meaningful projects that
21 benefit the community and beyond; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Youth Congress aims to recognize high-achieving
2 students for their extraordinary efforts in improving our commonwealth; and


3 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Stephanie Diaz has not only left her mark in the STEP-
4 UP Program, but has impacted a generation of youth in the CNMI with her
5 outstanding research endeavors, which the Youth Congress deems necessary to
6 acknowledge; and

7 **NOW, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Nineteenth Commonwealth of the
8 Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress that the Youth Congress recognizes Ms.
9 Stephanie Diaz of Tinian High School for her remarkable scientific research during
10 the 2024 STEP-UP Program; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
12 designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original
13 copy of this Youth Congress Resolution to Ms. Stephanie Diaz; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
15 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
16 adoption of this resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified copy to the
17 Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives (23rd
18 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable Edith E. DeLeon
19 Guerrero, President of the Senate (23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth
20 Legislature); the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of
21 the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan,
22 CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (118th United States Congress).

Date: 12/21/2024

Introduced by: 
Senator Ysabella V. Palacios