

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

07 JUN 2021

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

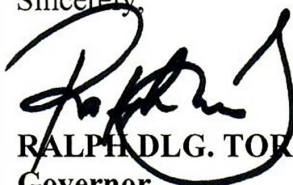
The Honorable Jude U. Hofschneider
President of the Senate
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 22-21, HD1** entitled, "To strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI Government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 22-01**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

cc: Lt. Governor; Press Secretary; Attorney General's Office; Secretary of Finance; Commonwealth Development Authority; Department of Commerce; Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950


May 20, 2021

The Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Torres:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 22-21, HD1**, entitled: "To strengthen the tools and powers of the CNMI Government to promote and expand economic development and to establish the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Twenty-Second Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

REPRESENTATIVE ANGEL A. DEMAPAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, and John Paul P. Sablan,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 22-21, HD1

AN ACT


**TO STRENGTHEN THE TOOLS AND POWERS OF THE CNMI
GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE AND EXPAND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND TO ESTABLISH THE COMMONWEALTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, MARCH 25, 2021;**
with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 22-21, HD1 and transmitted to
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 18, 2021;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON MARCH 25, 2021.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



Twenty-Second Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH DAY, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 25, 2021

H. B. No. 22-21, HD1

AN ACT

**TO STRENGTHEN THE TOOLS AND POWERS OF THE CNMI
GOVERNMENT TO PROMOTE AND EXPAND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND TO ESTABLISH THE
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This act may be cited as the “Commonwealth Economic Development Authority
3 Act of 2021”.

4 **SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

5 The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth economy requires a renewed focus on
6 economic development and diversification to provide jobs, and economic opportunity to a
7 community that has beleaguered with natural disasters, global crisis, and the lingering impacts

HOUSE BILL 22-21, HD1

1 of the wide-spread collapse of the manufacturing sector that has resulted in volatilities inherent
2 within an undiversified economy.

3 The Legislature finds that a targeted focus of a single governmental entity to plan for
4 and implement efforts to cultivate a stronger, more diversified economy for the Commonwealth
5 is necessary in establishing competitiveness against locations vying for global investments.

6 The Legislature further finds that the Commonwealth Development Authority, since its
7 establishment through the Commonwealth Development Authority Act of 1984, has succeeded
8 in its statutory mandate over the course of the last 36 years. However, as global and regional
9 economic landscapes change and industries evolve, there is a need to amend the statutory
10 language for the challenges of the 21st Century.

11 The purpose of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority is to be the
12 primary agency tasked with the economic development of the Commonwealth, and to be
13 empowered to undertake this mandate with the flexibility to become proactive in the pursuit of
14 industries and investments that will strengthen the CNMI economy.

15 **SECTION 3. GLOBAL AMENDMENT.**

16 The references in Division 10 of Title 4 and Chapter 13 of Division 5 of Title 4 of the
17 Commonwealth Code and all references in any contract, Executive Order, rule, regulation or
18 document to the “Commonwealth Development Authority” or “CDA” shall be amended to or
19 read as the “Commonwealth Economic Development Authority” or “CEDA”.

HOUSE BILL 22-21, HD1

1 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.**

2 Title 4, Division 10, Chapter 2, § 10203(a) is amended to add new subsections (1), (2),
3 (3), (4) and (5) to read as follows and to appropriately re-number subsequent subsections
4 accordingly:

5 “(1) To assist in the development of the economic development plan for the
6 Commonwealth, and control and implement that part of the plan assigned to it by law.

7 (2) To be responsible for actively promoting the CNMI as a location for private
8 investment.

9 (3) To promote and encourage the CNMI and development of new businesses
10 within the Commonwealth, as well as promote the retention and expansion of existing
11 businesses.

12 (4) To promote and encourage the expansion and development of market for the
13 products of the CNMI and to encourage the establishment of commercial linkages of
14 CNMI products within the CNMI tourism industry.

15 (5) To coordinate, develop, and participate in off-island investor missions to
16 generate interest and investment in the CNMI, with emphasis on business investments
17 from the United States of America.”

18 **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.**

19 Title 4, Division 10, Chapter 3, § 10305 (b) is amended to add new subsections (5) and
20 (6) and 7 to read as follows and to appropriately re-number subsequent subsections
21 accordingly:

HOUSE BILL 22-21, HD1

1 “(5) To allocate and expend funds for the purposes of promotion of the CNMI
2 as a location for private investment, the expansion and retention of existing businesses,
3 the promotion and marketing of products of the CNMI, and the undertaking of
4 promotional activities for CNMI investments in line with the economic development
5 plan for the CNMI, in accordance with the responsibilities of the Authority contained
6 in 4 CMC § 10203;

7 (6) Any use of CEDA funds for the promotional activities for CNMI
8 investments, the expansion, and retention of an existing business, the promotion, and
9 marketing of products of the CNMI will be reported in the annual CEDA Citizen-
10 Centric report, as to each activity, to include 1) Budgeted amount and annual
11 expenditure; 2) Purpose & Action taken, and 3) Result(s) of promoting of the CNMI
12 and any other relevant information pertaining to those activities;

13 (7) CEDA shall act in consultation with the Department of Commerce in the
14 performance of the duties set forth in Title 1, Division 2, Subsection 2451 et seq.”

15 **SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.**

16 If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or
17 circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this
18 Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which
19 it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

20 **SECTION 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

21 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any
22 existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,

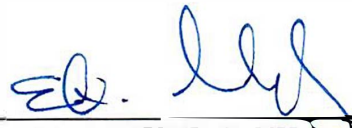
HOUSE BILL 22-21, HD1

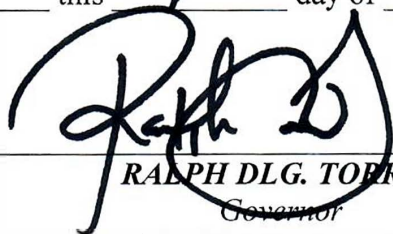
1 regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect
2 any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not
3 have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which
4 shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

5 **SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

6 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law
7 without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
House of Representatives
22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 7th day of June, 2021

RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands