



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2006

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-4
H. B. No. 15-37, HS1

AN ACT

To declare Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a legal holiday in the CNMI; to combine Commonwealth Day and Covenant Day into “Commonwealth Covenant Day” and to rename Columbus Day as “Commonwealth Cultural Day;” and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The Legislature finds that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a
2 leader in the fight for justice through nonviolence. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a
3 prominent civil rights leader and fought for the equality, dignity, and freedom of all people.
4 It is through his work and devotion that we enjoy the freedom and civility in our life
5 everyday. Dr. King’s efforts have clearly affected the people of the Commonwealth and have
6 benefited directly from his visions and actions as a civil rights advocate. The U.S. Congress
7 found it fit to declare his birthday a national holiday. Therefore, pursuant to U.S. Public Law
8 98-114 Section 2 (5 U.S.C. Section 6103), Dr. King’s birthday officially became a legal
9 holiday. Although the CNMI also observed the holiday, it was subsequently repealed by
10 CNMI Public Law 5-14. Dr. King’s efforts have clearly affected the people of the
11 Commonwealth who have benefited directly from his visions and actions as a civil rights
12 advocate. Considering the importance of Dr. King’s contributions to society, it is the intent
13 of this bill to restore the legal holiday in the Commonwealth in honor of Dr. Martin Luther
14 King, Jr.’s principles and contributions to society.

15 The Legislature further finds that Commonwealth Day, a holiday in celebration of the
16 effective date of the CNMI Constitution and Covenant Day, a holiday in celebration of the
17 approval of the Covenant, should be incorporated as one holiday for the reason that
18 Commonwealth Day has a direct correlation with the establishment of the Covenant.

1 Celebrating the two important dates together will give greater emphasis on their historical
2 significance and possibly create greater understanding of the correlation of the Covenant and
3 the Constitution. Therefore, it is also the purpose of this legislation to combine the two
4 holidays as one holiday because of their similar significance.

5 **Section 2. Amendment.** 1 CMC § 311 is amended to read as follows:

6 “311. Legal Holidays.

7 The following days of each year are hereby declared as legal holidays within the
8 Commonwealth:

9	New Year’s Day	January 1
10	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Third Monday in January
11	President’s Day	Third Monday in February
12	Commonwealth Covenant Day	March 24
13	Good Friday	As Designated in the Annual
14		Calendar
15	Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
16	Independence Day	July 4
17	Labor Day	First Monday in September
18	Commonwealth Cultural Day	Second Monday in October
19	Citizenship Day	November 4
20	Veteran’s Day	November 11
21	Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
22	Constitution Day	December 8
23	Christmas Day	December 25”

24 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
25 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
26 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
27 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

28 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
29 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
30 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers

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

5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
6 Governor or its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

/s/ _____

OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

/s/ _____

EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 11th day of APRIL, 2006

/s/ _____

BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS