



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial

Governor

Eloy S. Inos

Lieutenant Governor

DEC 14 2009

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Speaker, House of Representatives
Sixteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Pete P. Reyes
Senate President
Sixteenth 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 16-229 entitled, "To establish an Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor," which was passed by the Sixteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 16-48**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benigno R. Fitial".

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

CC: Lt. Governor
Office of the Attorney General
Secretary, Department of Commerce
Administrator, CIP
Press Secretary, Office of the Governor
CNMI Municipal Councils
CNMI Mayors
Special Assistant to the Administration
Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review

Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 664-2200 /2300 Facsimile: (670) 664-2211/2311



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
2ND DAY, THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2009

Public Law No. 16-48

House Bill No. 16-229

AN ACT

To establish an Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Offered by Representatives: Victor B. Hocog and Arnold I. Palacios

Date: February 25, 2009

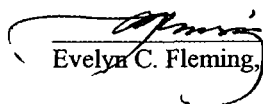
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means
Public Hearing: None
Standing Committee Report No. 16-88

Passed First and Final Reading on May 12, 2009

In the SENATE

Referred to: Fiscal Affairs Committee
Public Hearing: None
Standing Committee Report: None

Passed First and Final Reading on October 28, 2009


Evelyn C. Fleming, House Clerk



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2009

Public Law No. 16-48
H. B. No. 16-229

AN ACT

To establish an Office of Grants Management under the Office of the Governor.

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

1 **Section 1. Title.** This Act may be cited as the "Grants Management Act."

2 **Section 2. Purpose.** The Legislature finds that significant funding is available from
3 federal grants. The Legislature also finds that it is in the public's interest to take full
4 advantage of the federal grant funding that the Commonwealth is eligible to receive. The
5 Legislature further finds that there is a corresponding need to establish an Office of Grants
6 Management within the Office of the Governor. The Office would be responsible for the
7 following: (1) establishment of a database of those federal grants currently received; (2)
8 research of all federal grants which the CNMI is eligible to receive but has not applied for;
9 (3) development of grant applications for those federal grants which the CNMI has not
10 previously submitted grant applications but is eligible to receive; (4) research of those federal
11 grants which the CNMI is not currently eligible to receive but might reasonably be made
12 eligible through the application of § 502(a)(1) of the Covenant, which makes applicable to
13 the CNMI "those laws which provide federal services and financial assistance programs as
14 they apply to Guam, and (5) development of training programs for government staff in grant
15 writing, grant management and compliance, training on federal regulations and requirements,
16 and practices and trends in federal grant implementation.

1 **Section 3. Office of Grants Management.** There is established an Office of Grants
2 Management within the Office of the Governor. The office shall be headed by an
3 administrator who shall have at least a bachelor's degree from a U.S.-accredited college or
4 university, and at least five years experience in grant writing or grants management. The
5 administrator shall report directly to the Governor or to another government official the
6 Governor has delegated his supervisory responsibility.

7 **Section 4. Office of Grants Management: Duties and Responsibilities.**

8 (a) The Office of Grants Management shall have the following duties and
9 responsibilities:

10 (1) Coordinate Commonwealth agency activity to identify and win
11 competitive federal grants.

12 (2) Review federal grant formulae at the time of the reauthorization of
13 continuing federal grants by the U.S. Congress to ensure the Commonwealth receives
14 an optimized share of funding.

15 (3) Assist local governments and community-based organizations in
16 identifying federal grant opportunities as well as private foundation grants.

17 (4) To develop and maintain a database on all grants received by the CNMI
18 government; the database shall include at a minimum, the subject area of the grant,
19 the fiscal year in which the grant applies, the program title, the type of grant (e.g.,
20 formula or discretionary), the amount of the grant, the recipient department, the
21 grantor agency, any local cash or in-kind matching requirements, any special
22 conditions or restrictions, and the name, title, and contact number of all persons
23 responsible for grant management and administration, both for the CNMI and for the
24 grantor agency.

25 (5) Identify all grants that the CNMI is eligible to receive but has not applied
26 for, and to determine whether the CNMI should submit a future application.

27 (6) Identify all grants that the CNMI is not presently eligible to receive and
28 could reasonably become eligible to receive, and, to coordinate with appropriate

1 CNMI agency or department or U.S. federal agency or department to secure
2 eligibility for the CNMI.

3 (7) Provide training to government agency staff in grant writing and grant
4 management and administration and other technical assistance to agency staff and
5 other interested organizations.

6 (8) Serve as the central point coordinator of federal grants, disseminating grant
7 information and training government staff about the full range of federal assistance
8 that the CNMI is eligible to receive.

9 (9) Provide an annual report to the legislature on federal grants received by the
10 CNMI by grant, by fiscal year, by amount received, by amount expended from each
11 grant and total federal assistance and grant expenditures computed on a per capita
12 basis.

13 (10) Assist small businesses in identifying federal procurement opportunities
14 and assist individuals in identifying federal employment opportunities.

15 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
16 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
17 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
18 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

19 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
20 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
21 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
22 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
23 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
24 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
25 becomes effective.

1 Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
2 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

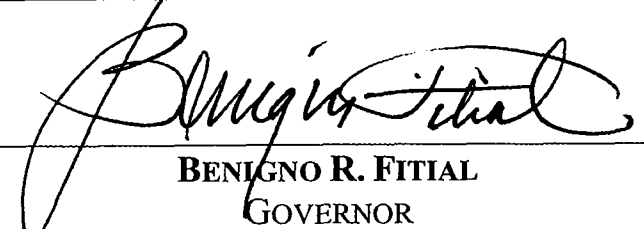
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE


EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 14th day of DECEMBER, 2009


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS