



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

Public Law No. 16-49  
**H. B. No. 16-219, HD1**

AN ACT

To designate Lau Lau Bay as a boat launching site to facilitate quicker response times for emergencies located on the eastern coastline of Saipan; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SIXTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that Lau Lau Bay is a  
2 popular recreational site for many locals. It is also a significant historical fishing site which  
3 continues to be used by locals today. Historically, flying proas and larger fishing canoes were  
4 launched off of Lau Lau Bay, and later the Germans and the Japanese also used this site as a  
5 port. The Legislature also finds that many local fishermen fish as a means to provide for their  
6 families and that during these harsh economic times, that fishing for many families has  
7 become a necessity.

8           The Legislature also finds that Lau Lau Bay is located adjacent to Forbidden Island,  
9 Tank Beach, and Marine Beach which are other very popular local and tourist sites. The  
10 Legislature further finds that although this area is visited heavily by tourists and locals that  
11 there are no readily accessible boat launching sites in the vicinity. Recent tragic events  
12 demand that the government take steps to remedy this problem.

13           On March 23, 2007, four students drowned when a big wave struck the group on the  
14 southern side of Forbidden Island. The Boating Safety Section of the Department of Public  
15 Safety launched a rescue operation, while a U.S. Navy chopper assisted by conducting an  
16 aerial search of the area. The Legislature further finds that there have been many reported  
17 drownings in this area even prior to this recent tragedy and that it is time to take action. The  
18 Legislature finds that rescue boats launching from the Smiling Cove Marina are confronted  
19 with many challenging variables in trying to conduct a search and rescue operation on the

1 east side of the island. Rescue times can vary depending upon weather and water conditions,  
2 and can have an impact on the success of the rescue operation.

3 The Legislature finally finds that it would be in the best interest of the public to  
4 provide a boat launching site at Lau Lau Bay. Every minute in a rescue operation is precious,  
5 and can make a difference in "rescuing" rather "recovering" a drowning victim. Therefore,  
6 the purpose of this Act is to establish a boat launching site at Lau Lau Bay to assist our local  
7 subsistence fishers, to improve emergency response times, and ultimately to save lives.

8 **Section 2. Designation of Lau Lau Bay Boat Launching Site.** The shore fronting  
9 *Bantalan Aliman* at Lau Lau Bay is hereby designated as a boat launching site.

10 **Section 3. Authorization.** The Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural  
11 Resources, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section,  
12 Coastal Resources Management, and the Division of Environmental Quality, is authorized to  
13 establish this site and to temporarily delineate the boat launching corridor to provide for the  
14 immediate use of the boat launching site by fishermen and boating safety officials until a  
15 permanent structure is established. The Secretary is further authorized to promulgate rules  
16 and regulations consistent with the intent of this Act.

17 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
18 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
19 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
20 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

21 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
22 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
23 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
24 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
25 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
26 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
27 becomes effective.

1           **Section 5. 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:**

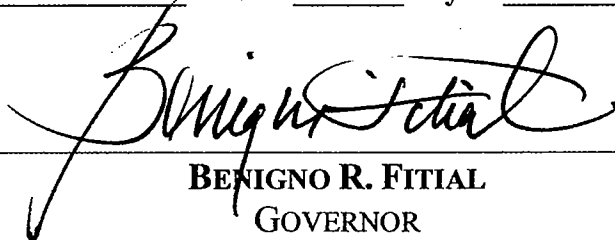


**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK

DISAPPROVED on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2009

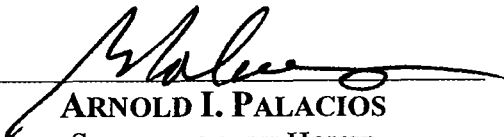


**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

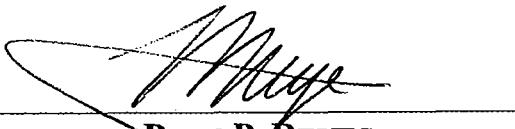
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Overridden by the House of Representatives on January 5, 2010, and by the Senate on January 6, 2010, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members in each house.

CERTIFIED BY:

  
ARNOLD I. PALACIOS  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

1/7/10  
DATE

  
PETE P. REYES  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

1/7/10  
DATE