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,

[Signature]

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
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
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:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth economy requires a renewed focus on economic development and diversification to provide jobs, and economic opportunity to a community that has beleaguered with natural disasters, global crisis, and the lingering impacts
of the wide-spread collapse of the manufacturing sector that has resulted in volatilities inherent
within an undiversified economy.

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

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

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

SECTION 3. GLOBAL AMENDMENT.

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

2
SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.

Title 4, Division 10, Chapter 3, § 10305 (b) is amended to add new subsections (5) and (6) and 7 to read as follows and to appropriately re-number subsequent subsections accordingly:
“(5) To allocate and expend funds for the purposes of promotion of the CNMI as a location for private investment, the expansion and retention of existing businesses, the promotion and marketing of products of the CNMI, and the undertaking of promotional activities for CNMI investments in line with the economic development plan for the CNMI, in accordance with the responsibilities of the Authority contained in 4 CMC § 10203;

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

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

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY.
If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 7. SAVINGS CLAUSE.
This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule,
regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or its becoming law 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