



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Eloy S. Inos
Lt. Governor

Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Senate President, The Senate
Seventeenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Eliceo D. Cabrera
Speaker, House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 17-61 entitled, "To eliminate fees for the maintenance of small parcels of public land," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-48**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "ELOY S. INOS". The signature is stylized with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

ELOY S. INOS
Acting Governor

cc: Governor; Attorney General; Press Secretary; Secretary, Department of Public Lands;
Commonwealth's Law Revision Commission, Special Assistant for Administration;
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

July 7, 2011

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Fitial:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. 17-61**, entitled: "To eliminate fees for the maintenance of small parcels of public land.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Seventeenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Second Regular Session

April 27, 2010

Representative Teresita A. Santos, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. 17-61

AN ACT

**TO ELIMINATE FEES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF SMALL
PARCELS OF PUBLIC LAND.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, which submitted Standing Committee Report 17-27, which was adopted on August 9, 2010.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 17, 2010;**
without amendments and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 17-50, which was adopted on June 30, 2011.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, JUNE 30, 2011;
without amendments.

H. B. 17-61 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JULY 5, 2011.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Muña", is written over a horizontal line.

Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



*Seventeenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

15TH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 17, 2010

H. B. 17-61

AN ACT

**TO ELIMINATE FEES FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF
SMALL PARCELS OF PUBLIC LAND.**

**Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature:**

1 **Section 1. Findings.** The land of many residential owners is adjacent to
2 small parcels of public land which are not of sufficient size to be leased or used
3 for public development. The small parcels are not maintained by the government
4 and serve as a source of unwanted vegetation and places for rodents and other
5 pests to take residence. In order to protect their property and preserve the small
6 parcels of public land, the adjacent land owners have been cleaning and
7 maintaining the public property. The Department of Public Lands has an
8 inconsistent policy in charging some land owners for maintaining the public land.
9 The land owners are preserving and protecting the public land for the benefit of
10 the public and should not be charged rent for maintaining the public land.

HOUSE BILL 17-61

1 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section
2 4116 is amended by adding a new subsection (b) as follows:

3 “(b) The Department of Public Lands shall not assess rental fees in
4 respect to small parcels of public land, not in excess of 300 square meters,
5 adjacent to land used for residential purposes where the residential land
6 owner maintains the public land by removing undesirable vegetation and
7 habitat for pests.”

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

13 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
14 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
15 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted
16 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
17 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
18 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
19 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

HOUSE BILL 17-61

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

Attested to by:



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



SPEAKER ELICEO "ELI" D. CABRERA

House of Representatives

17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this *27TH* day of *JULY*, 2011



ELOY S. INOS

Acting Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands