



GOV. COMM. **15-193**
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

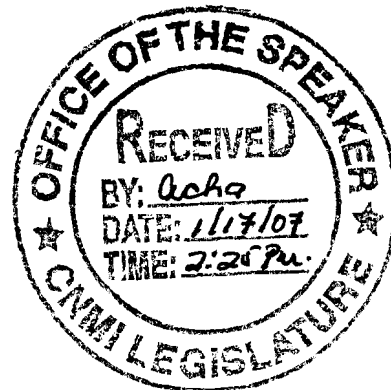
Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

Timothy P. Villagomez
Lieutenant Governor

JAN 14 2007

The Honorable Joseph M. Mendiola
Senate President, The Senate
Fifteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Oscar M. Babauta
Speaker, House of Representatives
Fifteenth 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 15-67, HS1 entitled, "To mandate that the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service shall be the Commonwealth's lead authority to establish a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 15-43**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Special Legal Counsels, Office of the Governor
Legal Counsel, Office of the Lt. Governor
Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Secretary, Department of Public Lands

Secretary, Department of Commerce
Commonwealth Development Authority
CIP Coordinator, CIP
Northern Marianas College
Senior Policy Advisor
Special Assistant to the Administration
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



The House of Representatives
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 7, 2006

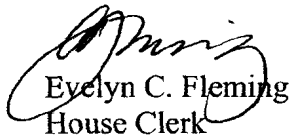
PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-43

The Honorable Timothy P. Villagomez
Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Villagomez:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 15-67, HS1**, entitled: "To mandate that the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service shall be the Commonwealth's lead authority to establish a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program; and for other purposes." The Bill was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Fifteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,


Evelyn C. Fleming
House Clerk

Attachment



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIFTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2006

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-43
H. B. No. 15-67, HS1

AN ACT

To mandate that the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service shall be the Commonwealth's lead authority to establish a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program; and for other purposes.

In the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Offered by Representatives: Martin B. Ada, Edwin P. Aldan, Oscar M. Babauta,
Francisco S. Dela Cruz, Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero, Jacinta M. Kaipat,
Jesus SN. Lizama, Crispin M. Ogo, Arnold I. Palacios, Absalon V. Waki, Jr., and
Ray N. Yumul

Date: February 9, 2006

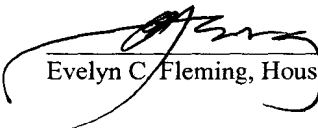
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources
Public Hearing: None
Standing Committee Report: None

Passed First Reading June 12, 2006
Final Reading on August 8, 2006

In the SENATE

Referred to: Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs
Public Hearing: None
Standing Committee Report No. 15-77

Passed Final Reading on November 30, 2006


Evelyn C. Fleming, House Clerk



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

PUBLIC LAW NO. 15-43
H. B. No. 15-67, HS1

AN ACT

To mandate that the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service shall be the Commonwealth's lead authority to establish a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program; and for other purposes.

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

1 **Section 1. Title.** This act may be cited as the "Commonwealth Aquaculture
2 Development Act of 2006."

3 **Section 2. Findings.** The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth supply of
4 seafood has greatly diminished through the years due to over-fishing and over-harvesting.
5 Although regulation and conservation of our marine resources are essential in ensuring the
6 availability of such resources, alternative measures must be implemented to protect and
7 preserve our marine resources. A robust aquaculture industry has the most potential to fill
8 the seafood needs of the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth is surrounded by the Pacific
9 ocean and therefore has the great potential for developing a thriving aquaculture industry.

10 The Legislature further finds that 3 CMC § 1305 established that one of the main
11 purposes and functions of the Northern Marianas College is to serve as the land-grant college
12 in the Commonwealth in accordance with federal laws and to promote, develop and
13 administer agricultural education programs, including but not limited to agricultural
14 extension services and agricultural and aquacultural research. As a result, the Northern
15 Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service has been actively
16 promoting and developing programs and research to assist our community. Such programs
17 and research have assisted in the establishment of tilapia and shrimp cultivation.

18 The Legislature further finds that there are several federal grants including grants
19 from the U.S. Department of Commerce and Department of Agriculture available for the

1 Commonwealth to develop an aquaculture program, which the Northern Marianas College
2 Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service have been taking advantage.
3 Because of its success, the Legislature deems it appropriate to mandate that the Northern
4 Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service be established as
5 the Commonwealth's lead authority to further develop the aquaculture industry and other
6 related programs.

7 **Section 3. Aquaculture Policy.** The Legislature declares that aquaculture has the
8 potential for reducing the dependence of imported seafood, raising the availability and
9 consumption of locally produced seafood, rebuilding depleted wild fisheries and marine
10 species stocks through enhancement programs, reducing fishing pressure on marine
11 resources, creating new employment opportunities in the processing and production of
12 fishery products, and stimulating economic growth by creating a thriving aquaculture
13 industry and promoting ecotourism in the Commonwealth. It is, therefore, in the best
14 interest, and it is the Commonwealth's policy, to encourage and promote the development of
15 aquaculture in the Commonwealth.

16 **Section 4. Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program.**

17 **§ 101. Mandate.**

18 The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and
19 Education Service shall be the Commonwealth's lead authority to develop and
20 implement a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Program consistent with the
21 provisions of the U.S. National Aquaculture Act of 1980, 16 U.S.C. 2801, et seq., as
22 amended.

23 **§ 102. Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Plan.**

24 The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and
25 Education Service shall establish a Commonwealth Aquaculture Development Plan.
26 The plan shall include building and operating an aquaculture facility in the
27 Commonwealth.

28 **§ 103. Coordination of Aquaculture Activities.**

29 In establishing the plan, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research
30 Extension and Education Service shall consult and coordinate its efforts with the
31 Department of Commerce, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division

1 of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Public Lands, representatives of the local
2 aquaculture industry, and other appropriate local government agencies, and federal
3 agencies.

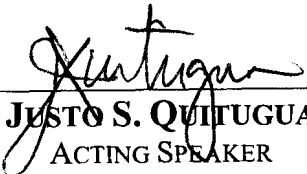
4 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
5 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
6 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
7 circumstances other than those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

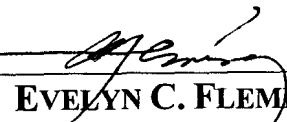
8 **Section 6. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
9 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
10 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
11 contained in this Act shall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

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

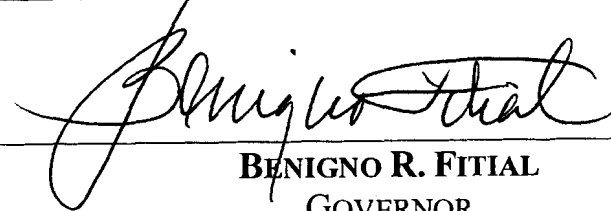
CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:


JUSTO S. QUITUGUA
ACTING SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

APPROVED on this 14th day of JANUARY 2007
16th 2006


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS