

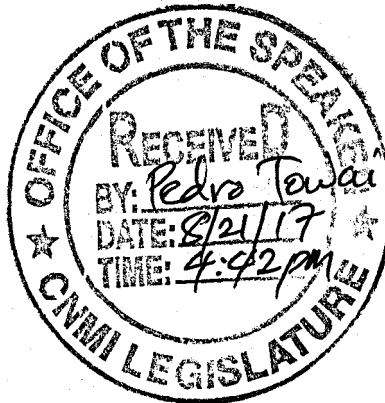


COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Victor B. Hocog
Lieutenant Governor

The Honorable Rafael S. Demapan
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950



19 AUG 2017

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
President
The Senate
Twentieth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 20-45, HD1**, entitled, "To establish new public highways, Route 324 in the village of Laulau and Route 325 in the village of Kanat Tabla on the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 20-07**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

RALPH DLG. TORRES

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE
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Twentieth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

First Regular Session

February 28, 2017

REPRESENTATIVE LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Francisco C. Aguon, Donald C. Barcinas, Edwin K. Propst, and Edmund S. Villagomez,) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 20-45, HD1

AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW PUBLIC HIGHWAYS, ROUTE 324 IN THE VILLAGE OF LAULAU AND ROUTE 325 IN THE VILLAGE OF KANAT TABLA ON THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

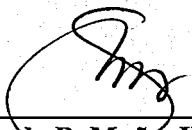
The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-19; adopted 5/5/17.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, MAY 5, 2017;
with amendments in the form of H. B. 20-45, HD1, and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, which submitted Standing Committee Report No. 20-28; adopted 8/3/17.

THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, AUGUST 10, 2017;
without amendments and was returned to
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON MAY 5, 2017.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

First Day, Third Special Session

May 5, 2017

H. B. No. 20-45, HD1

AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH TWO NEW PUBLIC HIGHWAYS, ROUTE 324 IN THE VILLAGE OF LAULAU AND ROUTE 325 IN THE VILLAGE OF KANAT TABLA ON THE ISLAND OF SAIPAN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Twentieth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that Laulau Bay Drive has
2 become a primary roadway for many residents on the Island of Saipan who have private
3 homes along Laulau Bay Drive. The surrounding areas of Laulau Bay Drive are also
4 expanding as many residents are developing their properties and building new homes.
5 Moreover, business investors are also building new apartments and condominiums in the
6 Laulau area thereby increasing the number of tenants traveling on Laulau Bay Drive.

7 The Legislature further finds that Laulau Bay Drive is an unpaved coral road and
8 during rainy season the residents of the Laulau area must endure extremely fragmented and
9 dangerous road conditions. The Legislature finds that the storm run-off water not only
10 damages Laulau Bay Drive but it also flows right into Laulau Bay and adversely affects our
11 coral reefs and other marine life on the eastern part of Saipan.

12 The Legislature finds that Laulau Bay Drive is also a vital alternative route to the
13 village of Kagman in the event of an emergency situation that closes or blocks the primary
14 road to Kagman. Presently, Kagman can only be accessed by one highway, Route 34 or
15 Kagman Road. Establishing Laulau Bay Drive as a highway or Route 324 would greatly

HOUSE BILL 20-45, HD1

1 serve the residents of Laulau and Kagman by establishing a safe and efficient highway to
2 access their homes, work establishments as well as other parts of Saipan.

3 The Legislature further finds that the population in the village of Kannat Tabla has
4 grown tremendously over the past several years. The Legislature finds that the Kannat Tabla
5 Drive is an unpaved coral road. Every rainy season the residents of the Kannat Tabla area
6 endure severe flooding and extremely fragmented and dangerous road conditions.

7 During heavy rainfall, the Legislature finds that the excessive run-off water not only
8 damages the Kannat Tabla Drive and other Kannat Tabla secondary and tertiary roads but
9 also damages the neighboring areas and roads of Dandan and Chalan Kiya due flooding and
10 debris streaming onto the road and surrounding areas.

11 The Legislature further finds that an alternative route from the Kannat Tabla to
12 Chalan Kiya is necessary to accommodate the growing population of these areas and to
13 promote the development of more homesteads and the construction of more homes,
14 apartments, and condominiums. Presently, Kannat Tabla drive begins at the Isa Drive
15 intersection in Kannat Tabla and ends halfway between Kannat Tabla and the Chalan Kiya
16 area. Kannat Tabla Drive must be established as a highway and extended to connect the
17 highway to Chalan Pale Arnold in the Chalan Kiya area. Establishing Kannat Tabla Drive as
18 a highway or Route 325 would significantly improve the transportation struggles of the
19 residents of Kannat Tabla and create opportunities for more private housing and commercial
20 housing development both in Kannat Tabla and Chalan Kiya. Therefore, the purpose of this
21 legislation is to establish Laulau Bay Drive and Kannat Tabla Drive as highways in order
22 promote economic development in these areas and, more importantly to provide more safe,
23 efficient and economical transportation services for the residents of those areas as well as the
24 entire residents of Saipan.

25 **Section 2. Establishment of New Highways on the Island of Saipan.**

26 (a) **Route 324 – Laulau Bay Drive.** There is hereby established on the island of
27 Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 324 also known as Laulau Bay Drive in
28 order to connect Laulau Bay Drive to Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 34 (Kagman Road).
29 Route 324 shall commence at the Laulau Bay Drive and Isa Drive intersection in Laulau
30 heading east following the existing road towards Laulau Beach and then north towards
31 Kagman until the highway connects to Route 34 (Kagman Road) in Kagman.

32 (b) **Route 325 – Kannat Tabla Drive.** There is hereby established on the island of
33 Saipan a new public highway to be named Route 325 also known as Kannat Tabla Drive in
34 order to connect Kannat Tabla Drive to Route 31 (Isa Drive) and Route 30 (Chalan Pale

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1 Arnold Road). Route 325 shall commence at the Kannat Tabla Drive and Isa Drive
2 intersection in Kannat Tabla heading north following the existing road and down towards
3 Nguus Street near McDonald's Restaurant in Chalan Kiya until the highway connects to
4 Route 31 (Chalan Pale Arnold Road).

5 **Section 3. Reservation of Public Land.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the
6 contrary, the Department of Public Works shall consult with the Department of Public Lands
7 on the reservation of public lands for the design and construction of Routes 324 and 325
8 including access to fishing and hunting areas, if necessary, and DPS enforcement and
9 emergency response on the island of Saipan, and identification of sufficient funding for the
10 projects.

11 **Section 4. TTIP and CIP Priority.**

12 (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Department of Public Works shall
13 include Routes 324 (Laulau Bay Drive) and 325 (Kannat Tabla Drive) on the Territorial
14 Transportation Improvement Plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
15 and prioritize the funding necessary for the construction of Routes 324 and 325 on the island
16 of Saipan.

17 (b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the Capital Improvement Project (CIP)
18 Office shall collaborate with the Department of Public Works to prioritize the design and
19 construction of Routes 324 and 325 for the island of Saipan. The CIP Office and the
20 Department of Public Works, Highway Division shall fund the design and construction of
21 Routes 324 and 325 projects utilizing available CIP funds, federal highway funds, and
22 Commonwealth and local funds appropriated for such projects.

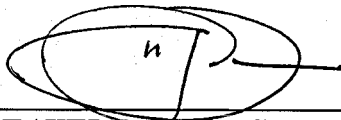
23 **Section 5. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
24 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
25 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
26 circumstances other than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

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

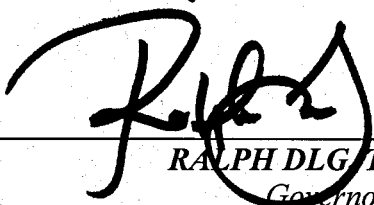
HOUSE BILL 20-45, HD1

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

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER RAFAEL S. DEMAPAN
House of Representatives
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 19th day of August, 2017


RALPH DLG TORRES
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands