

**FIFTEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
YOUTH CONGRESS**

Y.C. Res No. 15-02

First day, Second Regular Session, 2016

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

To recommend that the CNMI Board of Education adopt new policies and procedures to have private and public high schools mandate a sum of civic service hours for students to complete throughout their years of high school.

1 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body highly recommends that students participate in
2 civic service that may benefit the communities of the CNMI; and

3 **WHEREAS**, it is duly important that students immerse themselves in their villages and
4 communities to fulfill their civic service responsibilities, while also being knowledgeable
5 about the island's and country's history and the course of progress of its electorate as a whole;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, such progress, be it political or social, can only happen when a
8 democracy is involved in services that engenders growth, addresses issues, and creates
9 solutions; and

10 **WHEREAS**, civic service responsibilities may include beautification, attending a
11 legislative session, participating in a public hearing or other public forum, volunteering/voting
12 during the election process, volunteering in other community type events such as: the Salvation
13 Army, the American Red Cross, Beautify CNMI Projects, etc.; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the recommended civic service hours per high school shall be 40 hours in
15 the time of attendance of the student's attendance at their designated school and wherein the
16 hours they accumulate shall be carried over to the next school year if not initially completed;
17 and

1 **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body strongly recommends that schools make civic
2 service hours a requirement for graduation which should include Mt. Carmel School, Grace
3 Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High
4 School, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. and Sr. High School and Tinian Jr. and Sr. High School; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the mandate to have students participate in civic service creates a model
6 that helps to promote youth engagement and community partnership in which the youth in the
7 CNMI can greatly benefit from; and

8 **WHEREAS**, civic engagement is defined by the American Psychological Association
9 as “collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, it is this Legislative Body’s belief that when the youth participate in civic
11 service, their collective actions greatly contribute to identifying and addressing critical issues
12 of public concern;

13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Fifteenth CNMI Youth Congress
14 hereby recommend that private and public high schools mandate a sum of hours, as each
15 institution deems fit, for students to complete throughout their years of high school civic
16 service; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the Fifteenth CNMI Youth
18 Congress shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
19 adoption of this Resolution and thereafter shall transmit certified copies to the CNMI Board of
20 Education; the Honorable Francisco M. Borja, President of the Senate; the Honorable Rafael S.
21 Demapan, Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Honorable Gregorio “Kilili” Sablan,
22 Washington Delegate; and to the Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor of the
23 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prefiled: 01/11/16

Date: 01/11/16

Introduced By: 
Senator Thomas Lee A. Manglona II