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

Honorable Froilan C. Tenorio  
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 Senate Bill No. 17-10, SS1, entitled, “To establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana islands; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.  

This bill becomes Public Law No. 17-19. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.  

Sincerely,  

BENIGNO R. FITIAL  

cc: Lt. Governor  
Attorney General  
Department of Public Health  
Medical Professional Licensing Board  
Mayors  
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission  
Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review
August 26, 2010

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

Dear Governor Fitial:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith Senate Bill No. 17-10, SS1, entitled, "To establish a population-based Cancer Registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachment
AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH A POPULATION-BASED CANCER REGISTRY IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SENATE ACTION

Offered by Senator(s): Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres
Date: February 04, 2010
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare Programs
Standing Committee Report No.: 17-10 Adopted on May 05, 2010
Final Reading: May 05, 2010

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare
Standing Committee Report No.: 17-31 Adopted on 08/09/10
First and Final Reading: August 11, 2010
AN ACT

TO ESTABLISH A POPULATION-BASED CANCER REGISTRY IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Findings and Purposes. The Legislature finds that a 2004 study, funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), suggests that cancer is the second-leading cause of death in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and that the most prevalent cancers can be prevented with early detection and treatment. The Legislature finds that developing a population-based cancer registry in the CNMI will provide important data to enable public health professionals to understand and treat cancer more effectively.

A cancer registry is a special database that contains information about cancer patients in a particular population or in a particular hospital. A registry contains many special reports called abstracts. An abstract is a summary of a cancer patient’s medical record, but the information is collected in a standardized way, and is collected in the same way across the United States and U.S. Associated Pacific Islands (USAPI). All the information collected for the cancer registry is confidential.

The University of Hawaii was awarded a cooperative agreement from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to develop a Regional Cancer Registry on behalf of the six USAPI jurisdictions including Guam and the CNMI. Upon the enactment of a CNMI Cancer Registry Act, the University of Hawaii and the Department of Public Health (DPH) will execute a memorandum of understanding whereby DPH will set up a Cancer Registry
Office with basic office equipment and supplies. The University of Hawaii will provide one non-government FTE funded by the University of Hawaii to hire a cancer registrar/registry data specialist up to June 2012. The University of Hawaii will also provide the training necessary to develop and maintain a cancer registry. Therefore, the purpose of this act is to establish a population-based cancer registry in the Commonwealth.

Section 2. Amendment. Title 3, Division 2 of the Commonwealth Code is amended by adding a new chapter to read as follows:


§ 2840. Short Title. This chapter shall be known as the "Cancer Registry Act of 2010."

§ 2841. Establishment of a Cancer Registry. There is hereby established within the Department of Public Health, a CNMI Cancer Registry, to collect information on all cases of cancer occurring within the CNMI, to analyze and compare such data in appropriate ways and to annually prepare and distribute a report on their findings.

§ 2842. Cancer Registry Data and Confidentiality. Any person providing diagnostic or treatment services for cancer patients in the CNMI shall report each new case of cancer to the Department of Public Health. The report shall contain data concerning:

(1) demographic information about each case of cancer;
(2) information on the industrial or occupational history of the individuals with the cancers, to the extent such information is available from the same record;
(3) administrative information, including date of diagnosis and source of information;
(4) pathological data characterizing the cancer, including the cancer site, stage of disease, incidence, and type treatment; and
(5) other elements determined by the Department of Public Health.

All data collected under this section shall be considered confidential as to the names of persons or physicians concerned, except that researchers may use the names of such persons when requesting additional information for research studies when such studies have been approved by the Secretary of Public Health.
§ 2843. **Promulgation of Rules.** The Department of Public Health shall develop rules necessary to:

1. ensure complete reporting by hospitals, laboratories, physicians and other health care practitioners diagnosing, or providing treatment for cancer patients;
2. ensure access to all records that would identify cases of cancer or establish characteristics of the cancer, treatment of the cancer, or medical status of the individual patient;
3. protect the confidentiality of all cancer data reported to the registry;
4. establish the format, quality requirements, completeness, and timeliness of required data; and
5. protect individuals complying with the law including provisions specifying that no person shall be held liable in any civil action with respect to a cancer case report provided to the cancer registry.

§ 2844. **Injunctions.** In case of noncompliance with the provisions of this Act or with the rules and regulations of the program, the Secretary of Health shall notify the respective licensing board and may also notify the Attorney General of the such noncompliance. The licensing board shall notify the healthcare professional and may institute suspension of license for repeated noncompliance reported by the Secretary of Health.

The Attorney General, upon receipt of such notification, may institute an appropriate action or proceeding at law or in equity to restrain or correct such noncompliance. For all cases of noncompliance referred to the Attorney General by the Secretary of Health, quarterly reports shall be prepared by the Attorney General and submitted to the Secretary summarizing the status of such actions taken to correct and comply.”

**Section 3. Severability.** If any provision 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 4. 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 this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

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

CERTIFIED BY:

PAUL A. MANGLONA
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:

JOVITA M. TAIMANAO
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

APPROVED this 30th day of September, 2010

BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands