

FOURTH MARIANA ISLANDS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

RESOLUTION NO. 58-1973

INTRODUCED BY: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO URGING THE UNITED NATIONS
TO ENSURE THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY
ARE FULLY COMPENSATED FOR THEIR WAR CLAIM LOSSES
THAT OCCURRED DURING THE HOSTILITIES OF THE SECOND
WORLD WAR

WHEREAS, during the hostilities between two warring Powers, property and lives of the people of the Trust Territory were lost; and

WHEREAS, under provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement for the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United States of America accepted the responsibilities of administering the area, thereby agreeing to, among other things, protect and promote the welfare of the inhabitants thereof; and

WHEREAS, provisions of the Treaty of Peace signed by the Governments of Japan and the United States in 1952, state, among other things, that the settlement of Micronesian war claims would be the subject of special arrangements between the United States and Japan; and

WHEREAS, after almost twenty (20) years of negotiating with the Government of Japan, an Executive Agreement was signed in April 1969, providing for the establishment of a \$10 million war claims fund to pay Micronesian claims that arose between 7 December 1941 and the date on which the particular island was militarily secured; and

WHEREAS, this sum was arrived at without any consultation with the people of Micronesia, and indeed, in the face of detailed documentary evidence that was collected by the legislatures of Palau and the Marianas over a period of five (5) years that showed that the losses for these two districts were in excess of \$80 million; and

WHEREAS, it has been stated that the Japanese negotiators took the position that the value of the property of its citizens and its Government that was left in the Trust Territory following the Second World War, greatly exceeded the value of the Micronesian claims and, therefore, they should not be required to pay very much to the Micronesians for their losses; and

WHEREAS, if the Government of the United States illegally took property belonging to the Japanese, and the value of the Micronesian war claims were reduced because of this, then the United States Government should make up the deficiencies due the Micronesians; and

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