



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Attorney General

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February 26, 2018

OAGSB: 2018-08

Hon. Alice S. Igitol
Chairperson
Committee on Natural Resources
20th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Senate Bill 20-047: "To amend 2 CMC § 4372; to amend 2 CMC § 4376 to establish the Kastiyu Agricultural Homestead Development in Tinian; and for other purposes."

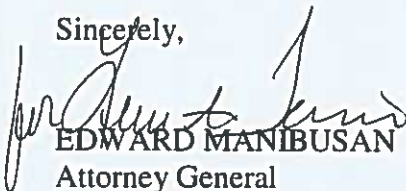
Dear Chairperson Igitol:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Office of the Attorney General on Senate Bill 20-047: "To amend 2 CMC § 4372; to amend 2 CMC § 4376 to establish the Kastiyu Agricultural Homestead Development in Tinian; and for other purposes" (the "Bill"). I have reviewed the Bill, and have one comment.

The Bill alters 2 CMC § 4376 in a way that may hinder the most efficient use of the land in question. First, the Bill removes the provision that the land for agricultural homesteads must be made on land "required for government use or other purposes by any other provision of law." 2 CMC § 4376. Land in these areas may be needed for government purposes or may be subject to other provisions of U.S. or Commonwealth law. Removing this proviso may undermine the efficient administration of government. The Committee should solicit comment from CUC, DPL, BECQ, DFW, and other agencies that may have insight into the government uses of the land in question.

Thank you for soliciting comments on the Bill.

Sincerely,



EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

cc: Deputy Attorney General
All Members, House of Representatives

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