



# FRIENDS OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS (FMI)

A PROUD PARTNER OF BEAUTIFY CNMI

FOUNDED 2006, SAIPAN, CNMI, U.S.A.

2006 USDA NATIONAL EARTH TEAM GROUP AWARDEE

2007 GOVERNOR'S BEAUTIFY CNMI ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD AWARDEE

2008 BEAUTIFY CNMI! ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD AWARDEE

2008 NRC'S EARTH TEAM VOLUNTEER'S AWARDEE

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May 13, 2008

George W. Bush

President

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

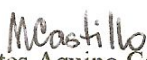
I am the President of an award winning environmental organization called Friends of the Mariana Islands. We have been recognized by the Federal EPA and USDA for our environmental stewardship. We have also been recognized for two years in a row by local environmental coalition Beautify CNMI! as Beautify CNMI! Steward Award winners.

Our organization is mainly a volunteer organization that participates in beach and road cleanups, tree plantings, and draining clearings, but we are very concerned with issues relating to our oceans. For example, since 2006 some of our volunteers have taken water samples in local streams that drain into the ocean to help our local Division of Environmental Quality understand the health of our ecosystem.

Our members are aware of a proposed project to designate the uninhabited northern most islands of the Marianas and a portion of the Mariana Trench as a National Marine Monument.

Our organization supports this worthy goal and would hope that your administration enter into dialogue with our local leaders to bring this project to fruition.

Respectfully yours,

  
Marites Aquino Castillo  
President/Chairwomen  
Friends of the Mariana Islands

CC: The Honorable Benigno Repeki Fitial  
Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne  
James Connaughton,  
VADM Conrad C. Lautenbacher  
Rebecca Rimel  
Angelo Villagomez

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