**The Climate Change Crisis on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**

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**Introduction**

1. Families and their livelihoods—are all at risk of being entirely submerged by rising sea levels.
2. Topic sentence/thesis statement:  In the present and in the future, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will continue to experience drastic changes in sea levels, typhoon and storm intensity, and ocean systems.

**First main point:** Earth’s climate has been changing more than ever before.

1. **Support:** From the beginning of the industrial age, human activities have accumulated and expanded extensively from fossil fuel extractions, deforestation, and land alterations.
2. **Support:** These activities produce greenhouse gas emissions that collect within the atmosphere and drive the Earth into a warmer state
3. **Support:**  Impacts of this phenomenon are seen globally through human health, agriculture, water supply, transportation, energy, and ecosystems

**Second main point:** The sea level surrounding the Marianas is rising

1. **Support:**  Since 1978, the long-term sea level trend shows an average rise of 0.07 inches
2. **Support:** Furthermore, in the events of El Niño and La Niña, the sea level lowers and rises by as much as 1 foot.
3. **Support:** Small changes in sea levels can paradoxically impact on high water frequency that will result in damage to the infrastructure of buildings and roads, and cause the degradation of beaches and vegetation

**Third main point:** With the CNMI being no stranger to typhoons and storms, it is known to produce intense winds, severe rains, large waves, and an upsurge of sea water.

1. **Support:** The effects of these natural events can drastically damage infrastructure and even end lives.
2. **Support:** During El Niño, there is an increased risk of typhoons as the normal seasonal winds of the CNMI weaken
3. **Support:** Furthermore, scientific evidence shows that tropical cyclone intensity will increase while the occurrence will decrease.

**Fourth main point:** As climate change drastically increases the ocean temperatures, coral reefs are at risk of thermal stress

1. **Support:** This results in the coral reefs to expel algae, which is vital to the survival of the systems
2. **Support:**  Moreover, ocean acidification will occur as the ocean absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
3. **Support:** Emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, cement production, and deforestation have pumped about two trillion tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

**Conclusion**

1. **Summarize main points of your paper and restate thesis:** At the rate of human activities with adverse effects on climate change, the island communities will suffer from rising sea levels, severe typhoons/storms, and changes in the ocean system.
2. **Memorable ending:** However, it is never too late. Islanders must come together, recognize the issues they are facing, and aid to heal the environment as one community.