



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIAL AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS

P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOEL CAMACHO
CHAIRMAN

Adopted - 5/15/2025
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-5
DATE: April 29, 2025
RE: House Bill 24-19,

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations to which was referred:

House Bill No. 24-19:

To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-19 be passed by the House.

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*
DATE 5/12/2025 TIME 1:45p

The purpose of this Act is to rename the CNMI Scholarship Office to the CNMI Scholarship and Financial Aid Office to more accurately reflect the full scope of its responsibilities and functions.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the CNMI Scholarship Office plays a critical role in promoting educational opportunities for CNMI residents and preparing the local workforce for future employment. The current name does not adequately reflect the functions of this important office. In addition to administering scholarship and financial aid programs, the office also manages enforcement actions related to delinquent or defaulted financial assistance agreements. Renaming the office as the CNMI Scholarship and Financial Aid Office will more accurately describe its comprehensive role, better align with its operational responsibilities, and support its mission of fostering educational advancement and workforce development in the Commonwealth. Therefore, your Committee supports with the intent and purpose of House Bill 24-19 and recommends its passage in its current form.

C. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

The following entities were invited to present oral testimony on the day of the committee meeting:

- The Northern Marianas Islands Office of the Public Defender
- The Special Assistant for Programs for Legislative Review
- Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- NMI Judiciary
- Office of Veterans Affairs
- Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- Office of the Attorney General

To date, the committee has received no written or oral responses.

D. Legislative History:

On April 24, 2025, Representative Mariss R. Flores introduced House Bill No. 24-19, and was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations for disposition.

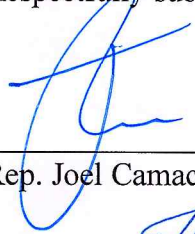
E. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill 24-19, will bear no additional costs to the CNMI government as this bill involves a name change, and the scholarship office will maintain its normal operations.

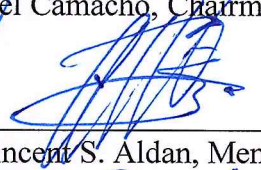
III. CONCLUSION:

The committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-19 and recommends its passage.

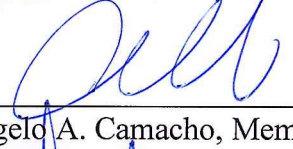
Respectfully submitted,



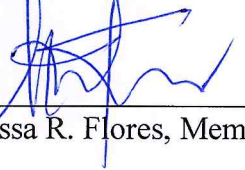
Rep. Joel Camacho, Chairman



Rep. Vincent S. Aldan, Member

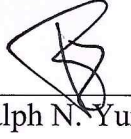


Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member



Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member

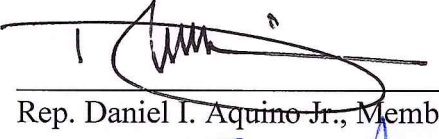
Rep. Julie A. Ogo, Member



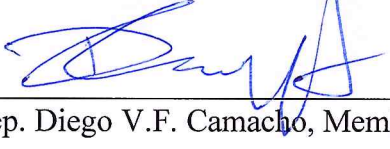
Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member



Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Vice Chair



Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Member




Rep. Diego V.F. Camacho, Member

Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Member

Reviewed by:



House Legal Counsel

ED + JLN
4/24/2025

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 24, 2025

1st Spe

~~Regular~~ Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 19

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that increasing
2 access to education and workforce training through financial aid opportunities
3 significantly improves the likelihood that local residents will become well-
4 educated, well-equipped contributors to the CNMI’s workforce. Currently, the
5 CNMI Scholarship Office provides such financial aid opportunities through
6 multiple scholarships, such as the Post Secondary Teacher Education Program
7 Scholarship and the Behavioral Health Professional Scholarship.

8 On July 11, 2024, the CNMI Scholarship Board of Directors approved
9 changing the name of the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship
10 and Financial Assistance Office” to better reflect the scope of the office’s services.
11 These services include, but are not limited to, administering higher education
12 financial assistance programs, which necessarily includes the power to address

1 matters related to delinquent or defaulted financial assistance agreements, and other
2 responsibilities necessary to carry out the office’s mission.

3 Based on the foregoing, the Legislature concurs with the CNMI Scholarship
4 Board of Directors’ decision to rename the office as it more accurately represents
5 the office’s purpose and function. Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to rename
6 the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial
7 Assistance Office.”

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Section 10102 of Chapter 10, Division 1, Title 3
9 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **“§ 10102. CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office**

11 (a) The CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office is hereby
12 established within the Executive Branch headed by an administrator appointed by
13 the Scholarship Board of Directors.

14 (b) The CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office is established
15 as an autonomous agency under the general control and direction of the Scholarship
16 Board of Directors. The board shall adopt bylaws that enumerate its purposes,
17 duties, powers, and rules of organization and operation, which bylaws shall not be
18 inconsistent with this article.”

19 **Section 3. Global Amendment.** Unless the context clearly indicates
20 otherwise, all references in the Commonwealth Code, regulations, executive orders,

1 or official documents to the “CNMI Scholarship Office” shall be construed to mean
2 the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

3 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 3806, the Law Revision Commission shall make all
4 necessary changes to the Commonwealth Code to reflect the renaming of the office,
5 including, but not limited to, correcting cross-references and clerical or
6 typographical errors to ensure conformity and consistency throughout the Code.

7 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
8 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
9 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
10 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
11 shall not be affected thereby.

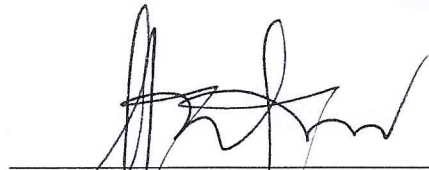
12 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
13 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
14 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
15 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
16 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
17 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
18 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

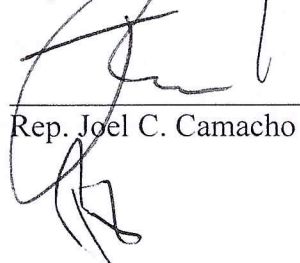
19 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
20 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 4/2/2025

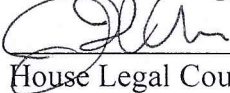
Date: _____

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Marissa R. Flores


Rep. Joel C. Camacho

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 4/1/25