



THE SENATE
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P. O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950

December 01, 2025

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Speaker Villagomez:


I have the honor of returning with amendment House Joint Resolution No. 24-9, SD1 entitled, "To respectfully urge the United States Department of Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service and any other responsible federal agencies to immediately cease and desist the implementation of Executive Order 14324 and remit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands all revenues collected under Executive Order 14324, or in the alternative, to recognize the CNMI's austerity to collect such revenues itself consistent with the Covenant and applicable law in the event that said charges must be imposed." The Senate adopted H.J.R. No. 24-9, SD1 by the unanimous voice vote, in its 8th Day, Second Regular Session on December 01, 2025.

Sincerely,


Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Attachment

Transmitted to HOUSE:

Received by:  Date: 12/1/2025 Time: 3:30 PM



The Senate
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500129
SAIPAN, MP 96950

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-33
Date: October 7, 2025
RE: House Joint Resolution No. 24-09

Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Fiscal Affairs, to which House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was referred, entitled:

“To respectfully urge the United States Department of Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service and any other responsible federal agencies to immediately cease and desist the implementation of Executive Order 14324 and remit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands all revenues collected under Executive Order 14324, or in the alternative, to recognize the CNMI’s authority to collect such revenues itself consistent with the Covenant and applicable law in the event that said charges must be imposed,”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion and deliberation, your Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed resolution in the form of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09, Senate Draft 1.

**OFFICE OF THE
SENATE CLERK**

Signed By: V. Agnon
Date: 11/12/25 Time: 1:33pm

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The intent of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 is to respectfully urge various U.S. federal agencies, including the United States Department of Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service, and any other relevant agencies, to immediately halt the implementation of Executive Order 14324. The resolution further calls for these agencies to remit to the CNMI all revenues collected under EO 14324. Alternatively, if the charges must be imposed, the resolution urges the federal government to recognize the CNMI's authority to collect those revenues itself, in accordance with the Covenant and applicable law.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that in July 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed Executive Order 14324, which suspends the duty-free *de minimis* exemption for all international shipments valued at \$800 or less, effective August 29, 2025. The intent of EO 14324 is to address the abuse of low-valued shipments, which were used to evade tariffs and smuggle unsafe market products, such as synthetic opioids, that impact communities nationwide.

Your Committee further finds that due to the remote location of the Commonwealth, the unintended consequence of EO 14324 has severely impacted residents, who rely heavily on air freight shipment and imported goods. Since the implementation of EO 14324, many residents and local businesses in the Commonwealth have been subjected to new tariffs on packages sent to the United States, including goods that were made in the CNMI or items critical to medical services provided to the community.

Your Committee further recognizes that the Covenant between the United States and the Commonwealth provides specific exemptions from the U.S. customs territory, meaning that duties, tariffs, or taxes assessed on shipments bound for or originating from the Commonwealth are not subject to U.S. Customs. This supports the position that EO 14324 should not apply to the Commonwealth, and any charges collected under EO 14324 should be remitted to the Commonwealth treasury or be collected by the Commonwealth government itself in accordance with the Covenant.

Your Committee met on October 7, 2025, to discuss the proposed resolution. Your Committee unanimously supports the intent of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 and upon further of the proposed resolution by the Legal Counsel, your Committee recommends its adoption in the form of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09, Senate Draft 1.

C. Legislative History:

House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was introduced by Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao on September 9, 2025. House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was adopted by the House of Representatives, in its current form, during its Third Day, Second Regular Session on September 9, 2025. On September 10, 2025, House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was transmitted to the Senate and was subsequently referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs for disposition.

D. Public Hearing and Comment:

1. Public Hearing. No public hearing was scheduled for House Joint Resolution No. 24-09. However, a committee meeting, which is open to the public, was held on October 7, 2025. See below for further details.
2. Committee Meeting. The proposed resolution made its first appearance during the scheduled committee meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. The committee meeting notices and agenda were officially posted on October 1, 2025, on various legislative forums and social media sites to invite members of the general public to provide comments as indicated under *Item No. IV. Public Comment* on the Committee Agenda. However, no oral testimony in support or in opposition of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was presented before your Committee.
3. Written Comment. Your Committee agreed not to solicit comments on the proposed resolution. Additionally, no written comment in support or opposition of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 was received by your Committee.

E. Estimated Fiscal Cost:

No fiscal analysis was prepared for the proposed resolution.

The adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09 signifies the Senate’s concurrence in urging the United States Department of Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service, and any other relevant agencies, to immediately halt the implementation of Executive Order 14324. Additionally, the resolution advocates that these agencies remit to the CNMI all revenues collected under EO 14324, or if the charges must be imposed, that the federal government recognize the CNMI’s authority to collect those revenues itself, in accordance with the Covenant and applicable law. If considered, the Commonwealth positions itself to receive additional revenue to support its efforts of local customs enforcement and tax collections to support the services provided to the people of the Commonwealth.

F. Summary of Committee Amendments:

Your Committee agreed to the following amendment:

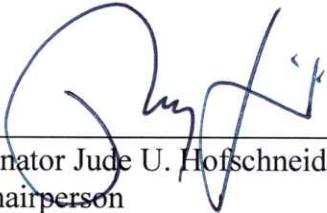
1. Clarification on the recognition of the CNMI as a jurisdiction of the United States, beginning on page 3, lines 1-5, to read:

WHEREAS, packages shipped from the CNMI to other United States jurisdictions are also being misclassified as subject to Executive Order 14324, even though the CNMI is legally recognized as a United States ~~in~~ origin jurisdiction under the Covenant, and therefore, such CNMI-origin goods must not be subjected to duties or fees that do not lawfully apply; and

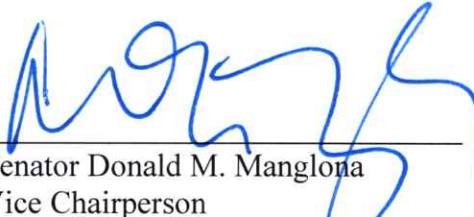
III. CONCLUSION:

Your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of the proposed resolution and recommends its adoption in the form of House Joint Resolution No. 24-09, Senate Draft 1.

Respectfully submitted,




Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairperson



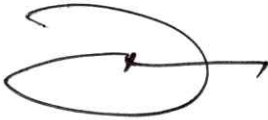
Senator Donald M. Manglona
Vice Chairperson



Senator Ronnie M. Calvo
Member




Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro
Member



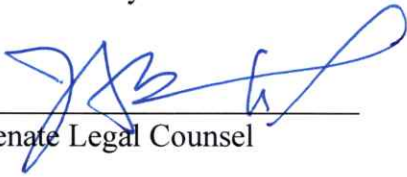
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
Member

Senator Corina L. Magofna
Member



Senator Paul A. Manglona
Member

Reviewed by:



Senate Legal Counsel

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

H. J. R. 24-9, SD1

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To respectfully urge the United States Department of the Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service and any other responsible federal agencies to immediately cease and desist the implementation of Executive Order 14324 and remit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands all revenues collected under Executive Order 14324, or in the alternative, to recognize the CNMI's authority to collect such revenues itself consistent with the Covenant and applicable law in the event that said charges must be imposed.

1 **WHEREAS**, the suspension of duty-free treatment under Executive Order
2 14324 has placed an immediate and disproportionate burden on the people of the
3 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by increasing the cost of imported
4 goods, in a jurisdiction where nearly all food, medicine, clothing, school supplies,
5 and household necessities are imported, and where the misapplication of duties
6 directly raises costs for families and small businesses, causing severe adverse
7 effects on a population that already bears some of the highest importation costs in
8 the United States; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 14324, issued on August 29, 2025, suspends
10 the “de minimis” duty-free treatment for imported goods valued under \$800, and

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1 federal agencies have applied this order to shipments either bound for the CNMI or
2 originating from the CNMI, even though the Commonwealth is outside the United
3 States Customs Territory and therefore not subject to Executive Order 14324; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Section 603(a) of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth
5 of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of
6 America, Pub. L. No. 94-241, codified at 48 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq., provides that
7 any duties, tariffs, or taxes assessed on shipments bound for or originating from the
8 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are not subject to United States
9 Customs, taxes, or duties and therefore should immediately cease and desist
10 because Executive Order 14324 does not apply to the Commonwealth; and

11 **WHEREAS**, because Section 603(a) of the Covenant provides that
12 shipments bound for or originating from the CNMI are outside the U.S. Customs
13 Territory, then to the extent any duties are improperly assessed, such revenues must
14 be remitted in full to the CNMI treasury or collected directly by the CNMI
15 government itself, consistent with federal law; and

16 **WHEREAS**, because the CNMI is not part of the U.S. Customs Territory
17 under applicable federal law, shipments destined for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota must
18 not be subjected to the tariffs imposed by Executive Order 14324 even if they are
19 routed through mainland United States ports, Hawai‘i, Guam, or Puerto Rico, as
20 those goods are not intended for sale or consumption within the Customs Territory;
21 and

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1 **WHEREAS**, packages shipped from the CNMI to other United States
2 jurisdictions are also being misclassified as subject to Executive Order 14324, even
3 though the CNMI is legally recognized as a United States in-origin jurisdiction
4 under the Covenant, and therefore, such CNMI-origin goods must not be subjected
5 to duties or fees that do not lawfully apply; and

6 **WHEREAS**, this misapplication of Executive Order 14324 undermines the
7 Covenant, disregards the Commonwealth's unique political and economic status,
8 and unjustly burdens the daily lives of CNMI families and the survival of small
9 businesses, which are the heart of the islands;

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the House of
11 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
12 Legislature, the Senate concurring that, pursuant to Section 603(a) of the Covenant
13 to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union
14 with the United States of America, Executive Order 14324 does not apply to the
15 Commonwealth and therefore, any duties, tariffs, taxes, or importation fees
16 assessed on shipments bound for or originating from the CNMI must immediately
17 cease and desist; provided, however, that to the extent such charges are collected,
18 they shall be remitted in full to the treasury of the Commonwealth of the Northern
19 Mariana Islands, or be collected directly by the CNMI government itself whenever
20 legally proper so that such revenues remain with the people of the Commonwealth
21 consistent with the Covenant and applicable law; and

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1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that consistent with applicable United
2 States federal law, the CNMI shall receive immediate relief from the misapplication
3 of Executive Order 14324, which has imposed disproportionate burdens on CNMI
4 families and small businesses, by exempting all shipments ultimately bound for the
5 CNMI from the application of Executive Order 14324, even if temporarily routed
6 through the mainland United States, Hawai'i, Guam, or Puerto Rico, as such
7 shipments are not intended for sale or consumption within the United States
8 Customs Territory; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all United States federal entities
10 including but not limited to the United States Postal Service, United States Customs
11 and Border Protection, and the United States Department of the Treasury shall
12 immediately treat and acknowledge packages shipped from the CNMI to other
13 United States jurisdictions, as exempt from the application of Executive Order
14 14324 because they originate from a Commonwealth of the United States; and

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk
17 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
18 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
19 President of the United States, Donald J. Trump; the Secretary of the Treasury,
20 Scott Bessent; the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Rodney
21 S. Scott; the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, Delegate to the 119th United States

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1 Congress; the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of
2 the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, President
3 of the Senate, Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Prefiled: 9/4/2025

Date: _____ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. Aldan
/s/ Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
/s/ Rep. Roy C.A. Ada
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores
/s/ Rep. Thomas J. DLC. Manglona
/s/ Rep. Elias J.M. Rangamar
/s/ Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas
/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Tajeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel

Date: 9/4/2025