



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

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-44**  
**Date: November 19, 2025**  
**RE: House Bill No. 24-74**

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 Bill No. 24-74 was referred, entitled:

“To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025,”

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 Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 1.

**II. ANALYSIS:**

A. Purpose:

The intent of House Bill No. 24-74 is to appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025.

B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the federal government shutdown has impacted the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), intended to provide eligible families with full benefits to put meals on the table.

Your Committee further finds that House Bill 24-74 authorized an emergency budget provision by appropriating \$1 million derived from the trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust to facilitate immediate NAP benefits to cover the shortfall for November 2025.

Your Committee met on November 19, 2025, to discuss the proposed legislation with Tracy B. Norita, Secretary of the Department of Finance, and Vicky Villagomez, Special Assistant for the Office of Management and Budget. During deliberation, it was understood that the federal government shutdown ended on November 12, 2025, and NAP benefits, in full, for November were disbursed on November 17, 2025. In reference to Governor's Message No. 24-171, it was acknowledged that the \$1 million to address the shortfall in NAP benefits was no longer needed and recommended further appropriation by the legislature. See attached.

In line with the recommendation by the Administration and absent a revised Fiscal Year 2026 Budget proposal for consideration, your Committee agreed to amend House Bill 24-74 to provide additional funding to the operations of the three main islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and the constitutionally mandated twenty-five percent to the CNMI Public School System. Your Committee supports the intent of the proposed legislation, as amended, and recommends its passage in the form of House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 1.

C. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 24-74 was introduced by Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao on November 6, 2025. House Bill No. 24-74 was passed by the House of Representatives, in its current form, in an Emergency Session during its Eighth Day, Second Regular Session on November 7, 2025. On November 7, 2025, House Bill No. 24-74 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 Bill No. 24-74. However, a committee meeting, which is open to the public, was held on November 19, 2025. See below for further details.
2. Committee Meeting. The proposed resolution made its first appearance during the scheduled committee meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The committee

meeting notices and agenda were officially posted on November 15, 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 Bill No. 24-74 was presented before your Committee.

3. Written Comment. Your Committee agreed not to solicit comments on the proposed legislation. Additionally, no written comment in support or in opposition of House Bill No. 24-74 was received by your Committee.

E. Estimated Fiscal Cost:

No fiscal analysis was prepared for the proposed legislation.

However, the passage of House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 1 would allocate funding to support the operations of the municipalities on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan in addition to the twenty-five percent allocation to the CNMI Public School System.

F. Summary of Committee Amendments:

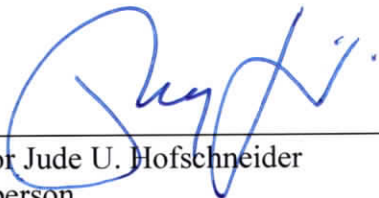
Your Committee agreed to the following amendments:

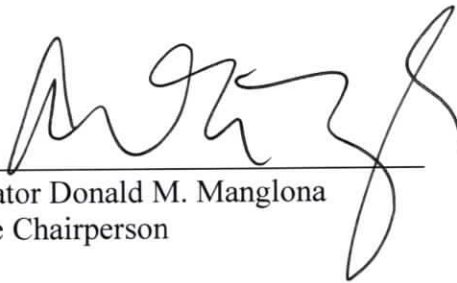
1. Title. The title was amended to reflect the intent of the adopted amendments.
2. Section 1. Findings and Purpose. Beginning on page 1, lines 1-12, this section was replaced in its entirety in response to the federal shutdown ending on November 12, 2025 that allowed for a full distribution of NAP benefits and to reflect the amendments adopted by the Committee to allocate funds to support the operational need of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan and the constitutionally mandated twenty-five percent allocation to the CNMI Public School System.
3. Section 2. Enactment. § 101. Appropriation. Beginning on page 2, lines 5-18, amendments made to reflect the appropriation of \$1,000,000.00 of funds derived from the preliminary distribution of trust income proceeds from the Marianas Public Land Trust for the municipal operations for the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, and the twenty-five percent to the CNMI Public School System as constitutionally mandated.

**III. CONCLUSION:**

Your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of the proposed legislation, as amended, and recommends its passage in the form of House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 1.


Respectfully submitted,

  
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Senator Jude U. Hofschneider  
Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Donald M. Manglona  
Vice Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo  
Member

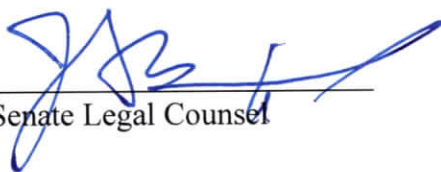
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro  
Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Corina L. Magofna  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Paul A. Manglona  
Member

Reviewed by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Legal Counsel

*Attachment(s):*

1. *Governor's Message No. 24-171 – Update to FY 2026 Budgetary Resources*



David M. Apatang  
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola  
Lieutenant Governor

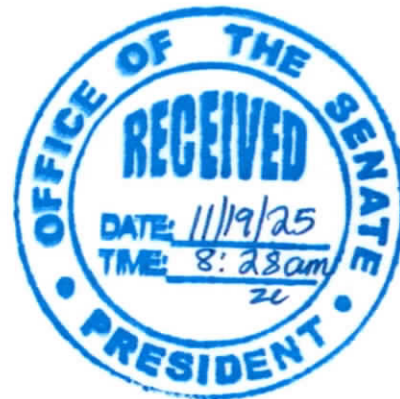
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 18, 2025

GOV2025- 519

Hon. Edmund S. Villagomez  
Speaker of the House  
24<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P.O. Box 500286  
Saipan, MP 96950

Hon. Karl King-Nabors  
President of the Senate  
24<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P.O. Box 500286  
Saipan, MP 96950



Subject: Update to FY 2026 Budgetary Resources

Dear President King-Nabors and Speaker Villagomez:

I write to provide you an important update to the FY 2026 Revised Budgetary resources available for appropriation. On October 14, 2025, I submitted a revised spending plan amounting to \$138.4 million, which includes the \$3.7 million additional lapsed funds from FY 2025. Since then, my administration was informed of an additional \$1 million from Marianas Public Lands Trust (MPLT) net distributable interest income and another \$4.9 million lapsed funds from the Public School System (PSS), amounting to \$5.9 million for allocation. This brings the FY 2026 total available general revenues for appropriation to \$144.3 million.

Since U.S. Congress ended the federal shutdown on November 12, 2025, the food crisis has been addressed and thus the additional \$5.9 million may be redirected to the following priorities:

- Public School System (\$2.9 million)
- Marianas Visitors Authority (\$1.0 million)
- Rainy Day Fund (\$1.0 million)
- Municipalities Operations: Tinian Mayor (\$500k); Rota Mayor (\$500k)

This proposed allocation will secure \$40.6 million towards the Public School System and bring students back in the classroom. Instructional time should not be taken away from our students. This will also bring MVA's allocation up to \$8.5 million for tourism recovery. The proposed Rainy Day Fund will mitigate any future critical emergencies.

OFFICE OF THE  
SENATE CLERK

Signed By: Date: 11/19 Time: 9:10a

Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building • 12296 Pagan Loop. • Capitol Hill, Saipan  
Caller Box 10007 • Saipan, MP 96950 • (670) 237-2200 • governor.cnmi.gov

I sincerely urge your swift passage of the revised budget to support operations and programs and our fiscal recovery. The Secretary of Finance and the Special Assistant for Management & Budget are available to discuss the above allocation or answer any questions.

Thank you for your urgent consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,



**DAVID M. APATANG**

Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

cc: Secretary of Finance  
Special Assistant, Office of Management and Budget

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**

**LEGISLATURE**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**NOVEMBER 6, 2025**

**Second Regular Session, 2025**

**H. B. 24-74, SS1**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature acknowledges Governor  
2 David Apatang's Gov. Msg. No. 24-171, which stated that the Nutrition Assistance  
3 Program (NAP) appropriation of \$1,000,000 is no longer needed due to the  
4 conclusion of the federal shutdown on November 12, 2025, thereby averting the  
5 CNMI NAP crisis.

6           However, the Legislature finds that a critical need exists to appropriate the  
7 \$1,000,000 to support essential government operations. Accordingly, the  
8 Legislature determines that the funds shall be reallocated to the operations of the  
9 Office of the Mayor of Saipan, the Office of the Mayor of Tinian, and the Office of  
10 the Mayor of Rota. Furthermore, twenty-five percent (25%) of the total  
11 appropriation shall be provided to the Public School System in accordance with  
12 Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.

1       **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding CNMI laws, rules, and regulations  
2 to the contrary, the following provision is hereby enacted into law:

3       **“§ 101. Appropriation.**

4       \$1,000,000.00 of funds derived from the preliminary distribution of trust  
5 income proceeds from the Marianas Public Land Trust is hereby appropriated as  
6 follows:

7       (a) \$250,000.00 for the Public School System in accordance with the CNMI  
8 Constitution Article XV, Section 1(e);

9       (b) \$100,000.00 for the operations of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan  
10 Mayor;

11       (c) \$325,000 for operations of the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and  
12 Aguiguan; and

13       (d) \$325,000.00 for the operations of the Office of the Mayor of Rota.”

14       **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
15 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
16 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
17 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
18 shall not be affected thereby.

19       **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall  
20 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired  
21 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the

**HOUSE BILL 24-74, SS1**

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1 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted  
2 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect  
3 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall  
4 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

5 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
6 Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 11/6/2025

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

/s/ Rep. Roy C.A. Ada  
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. Aldan  
/s/ Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr.  
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente  
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho  
/s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores  
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores  
/s/ Rep. Thomas J. DLC. Manglona  
/s/ Rep. Malcolm J. Omar  
/s/ Rep. Raymond U. Palacios  
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan  
/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez  
/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai  
/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:  
/s/ Joseph L.G. Tajjeron, Jr. 11/6/2025  
House Legal Counsel