Twenty-Fourth
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-3
Date: June 8, 2026
RE: House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1

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

and

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

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

The Conference Committee to which House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1 was referred, entitled:

> "To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel ~~projects~~ in the Second Senatorial District."

begs leave to report as follows:

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I. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

A. House Bill No. 24-89, "To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund projects in the Second Senatorial District." was introduced by Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas on February 9, 2026.

B. The House of Representatives adopted House Bill No. 24-89 in the form House Substitute 1 and passed House Bill No. 24-89, House Substitute 1 on First and Final Reading, by the unanimous vote of the members present, a quorum being present, during its Fourth Day, Third Regular Session on March 18, 2026.

C. The House of Representatives transmitted House Bill No. 24-89, House Substitute 1, to the Senate on March 18, 2026.

D. The Senate made amendments to House Bill No. 24-89, House Substitute 1 and passed the measure during its First Day, Third Special Session on May 01, 2025, in the form of House Bill No. 24-89, House Substitute 1, Senate Draft 1, entitled, "To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.".

E. The Senate transmitted House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, to the House of Representatives on May 06, 2026.

F. The House of Representatives rejected the Senate's amendments to House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, by the majority vote of the members, a quorum being present, during its First Day, Second Special Session on May 22, 2026. In accordance with the House's action, the Speaker appointed its Conferees.

G. The Senate was informed of the House rejection on May 22, 2026. The Senate President appointed its Conferees on May 29, 2026.

H. On June 8, 2026, a Conference Committee Meeting was held in the House Chamber of the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Conferees deliberated and spoke to issues as reflected in this report.

II. RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee deliberated and focused its effort on major differences between House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, the House version, and House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, the Senate version. During the Conference Committee meeting, the primary issues discussed included, but were not limited to, the following:

A. Title: The Senate Draft 1 amended the "Title" to read as follows:

"To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel ~~projects~~ in the Second Senatorial District."

B. Section 1: Senate Draft 1 modified the "Findings and Purpose" to allocate appropriations towards Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel. The amended text is as follows:

"The Legislature finds that the Second Senatorial District requires additional funding ~~to improve and maintain projects~~ for Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund ~~projects~~ for Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel within the Second Senatorial District."

C. Section 2: Senate Draft 1 modified the "Appropriation" section as to the purpose of the appropriations towards Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel, to read as follows:

"Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules, or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to 4 CMC § 10508 to appropriate dividends collected by CEDA from CUC, the Legislature hereby appropriates $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC for the Second Senatorial District to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel. ~~The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation shall adopt a resolution to distribute funds for projects in the municipality.~~"

D. Section 3: Senate Draft 1 inserted a new "Section 3. Fund Transfer." to provide timely transfer of appropriations from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Treasury to read as follows:

"**Section 3. Fund Transfer.**

The Funds appropriated under this Act shall be transferred within a reasonable time by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Treasury upon this Act becoming law."

D. Section 4: Senate Draft 1 renumbered this section and established the reprogramming authority and approval of funds to the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation. The amended text is as follows:

"**Section ~~3~~ 4. Reprogramming**.
Funds appropriated under this Act ~~may~~ shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose unless the reprogramming is approved by resolution by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, and notwithstanding any provision of law, all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation."

E. All subsequent sections were renumbered accordingly.

The Conference Committee is essential to facilitate consensus between the House and Senate versions of House Bill No. 24-89. The House Conferees proposed amendments to House Bill 24-89, HS1, SD1, to address issues raised by the Senate's amendments. Upon further discussion, both conferees unanimously agreed that House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, remain as is.

As a result, there is no primary difference between HB 24-89, HS1, SD1, and HB 24-89, HS1, SD1, CCS1. Both the House and Senate Conferees understand the importance of prioritizing recovery efforts for the CNMI after the aftermath of Super Typhoon Sinlaku. During a time of natural disaster combined with a steady economic downturn, restoration is imperative. The appropriation of $300,000.00 to the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan ensures that rebuilding efforts remain a priority as the municipality progresses towards full recovery.

Therefore, no additional proposed amendments by the Conferees were adopted.

The Members of the Conference Committee agree to revert to the Senate Draft 1 version of the bill. Therefore, the Conference Committee recommends that the House and Senate pass House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, in the form of House Bill No. 24-74, HS1, SD1, CCS1, upon the adoption and acceptance of this Conference Committee Report.

The Conference Committee shall dissolve upon the official adoption of House Bill No. 24-89, HS1, SD1, CCS1, by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

House of Representatives Conferees:

Representative John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Member

Representative Ralph N. Yumul
Member

Representative Marissa R. Flores
Alternate Member

Senate Conferees:

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairman

Senator Donald M. Manglona
Member

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
Member

Senator Corina L. Magofna
Alternate Member

Reviewed by Legal Counsels:

Karie Comstock
House Legal Counsel

Jose A. Bermudes
Senate Legal Counsel

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Third Regular Session, 2026. **H. B. 24-89, HS1, SD1, CCS1**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.

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

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that the Second Senatorial District requires additional funding for Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund for Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel within the Second Senatorial District.

Section 2. Appropriation. "Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules, or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to 4 CMC § 10508 to appropriate dividends collected by CEDA from CUC, the Legislature hereby appropriates $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC for the

Second Senatorial District to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel."

Section 3. Fund Transfer. The Funds appropriated under this Act shall be transferred within a reasonable time by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipal Treasury upon this Act becoming law.

Section 4. Reprogramming. Funds appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose unless the reprogramming is approved by resolution by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation, and notwithstanding any provision of law, all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation.

Section 5. Expenditure Authority. The expenditure authority of the funds allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be the Mayor of Tinian. Furthermore, the Mayor of Tinian shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority upon the exhaustion of the funds appropriated under this Act.

Section 6. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 7. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 8. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 1/22/2026

Date: _____ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

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

Date: 1/16/2026

H.B. 24-89, HS1, reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

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

Date: 3/10/2026