



COPY

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

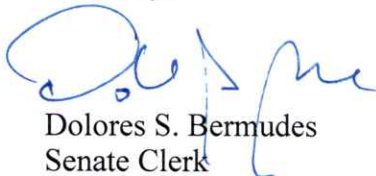
December 01, 2025

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 Bill No. 24-74, 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." The Senate passed on Final Reading H.B. No. 24-74, SS2, entitled, "To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust, by the unanimous 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: 4:07 p

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Second Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-74, SS2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.**

2 The Legislature acknowledges Governor David Apatang's Gov. Msg. No.
3 24-171, which stated that the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) appropriation
4 of \$1,000,000 is no longer needed due to the conclusion of the federal shutdown
5 on November 12, 2025, thereby averting the 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
10 of 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 “§ 101. Appropriation.

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

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

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

11 (c) \$325,000 for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan operations and
12 public programs. The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation shall
13 adopt a resolution to distribute funds to respective public programs and
14 operations of the municipality; and

15 (d) \$325,000.00 for the Municipality of Rota operations and public
16 programs. The Rota Legislative Delegation shall adopt a resolution to
17 distribute funds to respective public programs and operations of the
18 municipality.

19 Section 102. Expenditure Authority.

20 (a) The Commissioner of Education shall be the expenditure authority of
21 the funds under Section 101(a).

1 (b) The Mayor of Saipan shall be the expenditure authority of the funds
2 provided under Section 101(b);

3 (c) The expenditure authority of the funds provided under Section 101(c)
4 shall be the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan.

5 (d) The expenditure authority of the funds provided under Section 101(d)
6 shall be the Mayor of Rota.”

7 **Section 3. 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 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
13 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
14 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
15 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
16 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
17 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
18 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

HOUSE BILL 24-74, SS2

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. Taijeron, Jr. 11/6/2025
House Legal Counsel



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

S- Adopted 12/01/25 [Signature]

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.

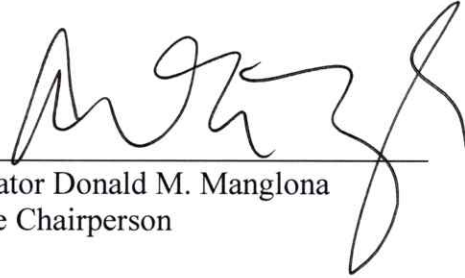
III. CONCLUSION:

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,



Senator Jude U. Hofschneider
Chairperson

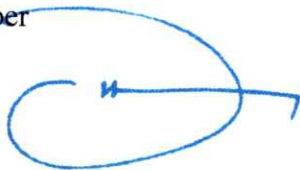


Senator Donald M. Manglona
Vice Chairperson



Senator Ronnie M. Calvo
Member

Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro
Member

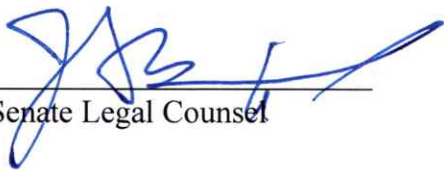


Senator Francisco Q. Cruz
Member

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

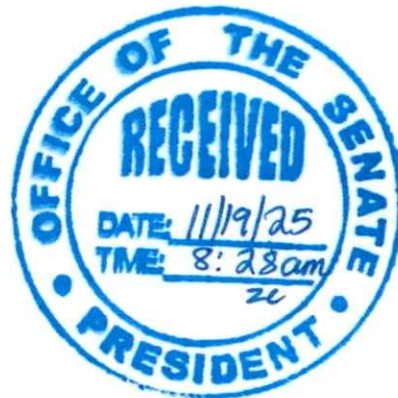
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 18, 2025

GOV2025- 519

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

Hon. Karl King-Nabors
President of the Senate
24th 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

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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

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

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12 Aguiguan; and

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

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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

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. Tajeron, Jr. 11/6/2025
House Legal Counsel