TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
P.O. BOX 500586 SAIPAN, MP 96950

JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN
CHAIRMAN

Adopted - 3/18/2026
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-45
DATE: March 10, 2026
RE: House Bill No. 24-91

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 Ways and Means to which was referred:

House Bill No. 24-91: "To appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District."

begs leave to report as follows:

I. <u>RECOMMENDATION</u>:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-91 be passed by the House in the form of House Substitute 1 (HS1).

RECEIVED BY
3/13/2026
DATE
TIME 10:30AM

II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District.

B. Committee Amendments:

The Committee made the following amendments to strengthen the intent of this Act. The Committee deleted the word "infrastructure" when referring to projects in the First Senatorial District. These amendments will allow the municipality flexibility when expending these funds and allow them to prioritize funding where urgently needed.

C. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) has identified funds from dividends collected by CEDA from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that is available for appropriation.

Your Committee finds that this Act will appropriate $300,000.00 from the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to fund projects in the First Senatorial District. The Rota Legislative Delegation will adopt a resolution to allocate funds for projects within the municipality. The Mayor of Rota shall have the authority to expend the allocated funds. To ensure transparency in the expenditure of said funds, the Mayor of Rota shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority upon the exhaustion of the funds appropriated under this Act.

Your Committee is cognizant that the First Senatorial District requires additional funding to improve and maintain projects within its municipality. This dedicated fund will ensure resources are specifically allocated to support, improve and maintain projects and other urgent needs within the municipality, promoting sustainable management. After thorough consideration and discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-91, as amended and reflected in HS1, be passed by the House to provide much needed funding and support the ongoing work of the Mayor of Rota.

D. Public Comments/Public Hearing:

In a public meeting held on March 10, 2026, the Committee did not receive oral testimonies during public comments for House Bill No. 24-91.

E. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 24-91 was introduced by Representative Julie Marie A. Ogo on February 9, 2026 and was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means for disposition.

F. Cost Benefit:

The enactment of House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, will not impose additional costs on the CNMI Government. The Act appropriates $300,000.00, that has been identified by CEDA for appropriation, that will be expended for projects in the First Senatorial District.

III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-91 and recommends its passage in the form of House Bill No. 24-91, House Substitute 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman

Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Vice Chairman

Rep. Roy A. Ada, Member

Rep. Vincent R. Aldan, Member

Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Member

Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member

Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Member

Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member

Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member

Rep. Thomas John "TJ" DLC. Manglona, Member

Rep. Julie Marie A. Ogo, Member

Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member

Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Member

Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Member

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Reviewed by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 3.10.26

ATTACHMENT: House Bill No. 24-91, HS1

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

_____ **Session, 2026** **H. B. 24-91**

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 infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District.

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

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

The Legislature finds that the First Senatorial District requires additional funding to improve and maintain its public infrastructure.

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 infrastructure projects within the First Senatorial District.

Section 2. Appropriation and Project Approval.

"Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules, or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to 4 CMC § 10508, $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC is appropriated to fund infrastructure projects in the First

Senatorial District. The Rota Legislative Delegation shall adopt a resolution to distribute funds for particular infrastructure projects in the municipality."

Section 3. No Fiscal Year Limitation.

The funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation.

Section 4. Expenditure Authority.

The expenditure authority of the funds under this Act shall be the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.

Section 5. Severability. If any provisions 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 6. 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 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 01.30.2024

Date: 01/28/2024 Introduced by: _____
Representative Julie Ogo

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

_____
Legal Counsel

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Third Regular Session, 2026 **H. B. 24-91, HS1**

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 projects in the First Senatorial District.

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

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that the First Senatorial District requires additional funding to improve and maintain projects in the First 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 within the First Senatorial District.

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

projects in the First Senatorial District. The Rota Legislative Delegation shall adopt a resolution to distribute funds for projects in the municipality."

Section 3. No Fiscal Year Limitation. The funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation.

Section 4. Expenditure Authority. The expenditure authority of the funds under this Act shall be the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.

Section 5. Severability. If any provisions 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 6. 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 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 1/30/2026

Date: 1/28/2026 Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Jose A. Bermudes
Legal Counsel

H.B. 24-91, HS1, reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 3-10-26