



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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-49  
DATE: March 11, 2026  
RE: House Bill No. 24-85

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. 24-85:** “To amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission’s authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

### I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-85 be passed by the House in its current form.

### II. ANALYSIS:

#### A. Purpose:

The purpose of this Act is to amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission’s authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; and for other purposes.

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### B. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission (CCLPC) is a division within the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) responsible for the preservation, study, and official regulation of the Chamorro and Carolinian languages in the Northern Mariana Islands. In addition, the CCLPC establishes, formulates, and enforces policies for government and private sectors regarding Chamorro and Carolinian translations, certify all Chamorro and Carolinian translators; promulgate rules and regulations for Chamorro and Carolinian languages used on all government or public documents and public places including public buildings, roads, places, street naming, and private business signs. While providing these essential services, CCLPC currently does not generate revenue through fees. This Act, will authorize the CCLP Commission to establish, assess, and collect fees for translation services and related activities, and promulgate rules and regulations, including a schedule of fees for the payment of such services, as necessary to implement and administer these fees. All fees collected shall be deposited into a revolving fund account established by the Secretary of Finance and designated as the CCLPC Revolving Fund. The CCLPC Revolving Fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be used exclusively for sustaining the activities and functions of the Commission. The expenditure authority of the CCLPC Revolving Fund shall be the Director of the Commission. Fund monies shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitations.

This dedicated fund will ensure resources are specifically allocated to support CCLPC's activities and functions, promoting sustainable management. After thorough consideration and discussion, your Committee recommends that House Bill No. 24-85, be passed by the House to establish these essential funding mechanisms and support the ongoing work of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission.

### C. 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. 24-85.

### D. Legislative History:

House Bill No. 24-85 was introduced by Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao on January 16, 2026 and was subsequently referred to the House Standing Committee on Ways and Means and the House Standing Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations for disposition.

E. Cost Benefit:


The enactment of House Bill No. 24-85, will not impose significant additional costs on the CNMI Government. The Act primarily establishes a dedicated revolving fund account funded through fees collected by the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission (CCLPC) and deposited into the “CCLPC Revolving Fund”. This account is designed to be self-sustaining, with funds allocated specifically for sustaining the activities and functions of the Commission, thereby reducing reliance on the government's general fund.

The creation of these revenue streams, along with the designation of the Director of the Commission as the authorized expenditure officer, enhances financial oversight and management. This approach ensures that resources are allocated efficiently and transparently, supporting the ongoing functions of the CCLPC without requiring additional budget allocations. Overall, this framework provides a cost-effective, sustainable means of delivering essential services, improving commission’s capacity, and ensuring fiscal responsibility while minimizing the financial impact on the government.

**III. CONCLUSION:**


The committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Bill No. 24-85 and recommends its passage in its current form.


Respectfully submitted,


  
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Rep. John Paul P. Sablan  
Chairman

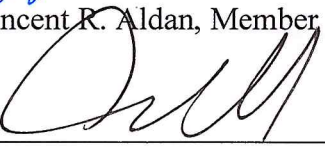
  
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Rep. Roy A. Ada, Member


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Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Member

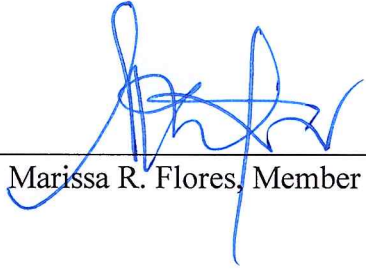
  
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Rep. Joel C. Camacho, Member

  
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Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao  
Vice Chairman

  
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Rep. Vincent R. Aldan, Member

  
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Rep. Angelo A. Camacho, Member

  
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Rep. Joseph A. Flores, Member



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Rep. Marissa R. Flores, Member



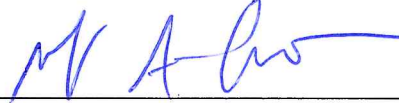
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Rep. Thomas John "TJ" DLC. Manglona, Member



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Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo, Member



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Rep. Malcolm J. Omar, Member



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Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Member



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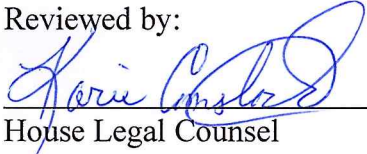
Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, Member



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Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Member

Reviewed by:



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House Legal Counsel

Date: 3-13-26

JG10 - 1/16/2024  
WFM - 1/16/2024

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 16, 2026

Third

Regular Session, 2026

H. B. 24- 85

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission's authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the  
2 Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission bears the crucial mandate  
3 of promoting and preserving the Chamorro and Carolinian languages, ensuring  
4 their continued vitality and use within the Commonwealth. The fulfillment of this  
5 mandate requires consistent and substantial funding to support essential programs  
6 and activities. However, the reliance solely on annual budget appropriations creates  
7 financial instability, potentially hindering the Commission's ability to effectively  
8 execute its core responsibilities and long-term strategic goals.

9           The Legislature further finds that granting the Commission specific  
10 authorization to charge fees for translation services and other related operations is  
11 a fiscally reasonable step that will considerably improve the Commission's financial

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1 independence and sustainability. Establishing a designated revolving fund for these  
2 fees will provide a steady revenue foundation for the Commission's long-term  
3 operational needs, allowing it to more effectively carry out its objective of  
4 preserving and promoting the Chamorro and Carolinian languages for future  
5 generations.

6 **Section 3. Amendment.** 3 CMC § 1205 is hereby amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 **“§ 1205. Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission:**  
9 **Duties and Functions.**

10 (a) Study antecedents, describe the grammar, and prescribe good usages for  
11 the Chamorro and Carolinian languages;

12 (b) Prepare a modern and up-to-date Chamorro-Carolinian-English  
13 dictionary;

14 (c) Represent the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in  
15 meetings and conferences on matters dealing with the Chamorro and Carolinian  
16 languages;

17 (d) Make recommendations to the Board of Education on standard  
18 orthography to be used in the public school system;

19 (e) Research the Chamorro and Carolinian languages and the people, and  
20 provide such resources to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library;

1 (f) Establish, formulate, and enforce policies for government and private  
2 sectors regarding Chamorro and Carolinian translations, and to certify all Chamorro  
3 and Carolinian translators;

4 (g) Promulgate rules and regulations for Chamorro and Carolinian  
5 languages used on all government or public documents and public places including  
6 public buildings, roads, places, street naming, and private business signs;

7 (h) Make recommendations to the Legislature on policies governing the  
8 usage of Chamorro and Carolinian language in the government sector; and

9 (i) Establish and support local initiatives to carry out policies in support of  
10 the Chamorro and Carolinian languages and cultures; and

11 (j) Establish, assess, and collect fees for translation services and related  
12 activities, and promulgate rules and regulations, including a schedule of fees for the  
13 payment of such services, as necessary to implement and administer these fees. All  
14 fees collected shall be deposited into a revolving fund account established by the  
15 Secretary of Finance and designated as the CCLPC Revolving Fund. The CCLPC  
16 Revolving Fund shall be non-lapsing and shall be used exclusively for sustaining  
17 the activities and functions of the Commission. The expenditure authority of the  
18 CCLPC Revolving Fund shall be the Director of the Commission. Fund monies  
19 shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation and without fiscal  
20 year limitations."

1           **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of  
2 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court  
3 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its  
4 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid  
5 shall not be affected thereby.

6           **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
7 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
8 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
9 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding  
10 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
11 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
12 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: 11/19/2026

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_

Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Joshua S. Day  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 1/9/26

