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

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24-4
Date: June 8, 2026
RE: House Bill No. 24-91, 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. 24-91, 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 First Senatorial District; and for other purposes."

begs leave to report as follows:

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I. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

A. 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." was introduced by Representative Julie M. A. Ogo on February 9, 2026.

B. The House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 24-91 in the form of House Substitute 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 projects in the First Senatorial District." on First and Final Reading by the majority 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. 24-91, HS1, to the Senate on March 19, 2026.

D. The Senate made amendments to House Bill No. 24-91, HS1 and passed on Final Reading House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, SD1, entitled, the measure during its 8th, Second Regular Session on December 01, 2025, in the form of House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 2, 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 First Senatorial District; and for other purposes." By the unanimous vote, in its 1st Day, Third Special Session on May 01, 2026.

E. The Senate transmitted House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, SD1 to the House of Representatives on May 6, 2026.

F. The House of Representatives rejected the Senate's amendments to House Bill No. 24-91, 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. 24-91, HS1, the House version, and House Bill No. 24-91, 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 First Senatorial District; and for other purposes."

B. Section 1: Senate Draft 1 modified the "Findings and Purpose" to reflect its new intent as stated in the amended title, which appropriates the funds to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel. The amended text reads as follows:

> "The Legislature finds that the First Senatorial District requires additional funding to ~~improve and maintain projects~~ to respond to Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel 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~~ for the typhoon disaster relief operations and personnel within the First Senatorial District."

C. Section 2: Senate Draft 1 modified the "Appropriation and Project Approval" to reflect its new intent as stated in the amended title, findings, and purpose. The amended section reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules, or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to 4 CMC § 10508, the $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~~ is appropriated as follows:

> ~~(a)~~ Out of the $300,000.00, $200,000.00 shall be used to fund Super Typhoon disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District, and $100,000.00 is reserved for personnel and operations for the Office of the Mayor of Rota, in accordance with an adopted resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation."

D. Section 3: No changes.

E. Section 4: Senate Draft 1 made minor revisions to the "Expenditure Authority" that reads as follows:

> "The expenditure authority of the funds in a portion under this Act, Section 2, shall be the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota."

F. Sections 5, 6, and 7: Senate Draft 1 inserted three new Sections to read as follows:

> "**Section 5. Fund Transfer.** The $300,000.00 appropriated under Section 2 shall be transferred within a reasonable time by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to the Rota Municipal Treasury upon this Act becoming law.
>
> **Section 6. Reporting Requirement.** The Mayor of Rota shall provide a monthly expenditure report of the funds appropriated in a portion of Section 2 to the Chairperson of the Rota Legislative Delegation.
>
> **Section 7. Reprogramming.** The funds appropriated in a portion under Section 2 shall not be reprogrammed unless approved by resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation."

The Conference Committee plays a critical role in reconciling differences between the House and Senate versions of House Bill No. 24-91 (HS1). The House Conferees proposed amendments to House Bill 24-91, HS1, SD1, to address issues raised by the Senate's amendments.

The primary difference between HB 24-91, HS1, and HB 24-91, HS1, SD1, is the appropriation of funds derived from dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC). The House's version appropriated the entire amount of $300,000.00 for projects in the First Senatorial District. The Rota Legislative Delegation shall adopt a resolution to distribute funds for projects in the municipality.

On April 14, Super Typhoon Sinlaku made landfall in the Northern Mariana Islands as a powerful Category 4 storm, with sustained winds of 150 mph and gusts up to 185 mph. The islands of Saipan and Tinian experienced widespread power blackouts, extensive damage to homes and infrastructure, and heavy flooding from over 20 inches of rain. Rota also experienced significant impacts, including power outages and flash flooding, though it avoided a direct hit from the storm's eye.

In light of the CNMI's current situation, the Senate's version appropriates the same funds for two specific purposes. First, the amount of $200,000.00 is to fund Super Typhoon disaster relief personnel and operations for the Office of the Mayor of Rota. Second, in the amount of $100,000.00, is reserved for personnel and operations for the Office of the Mayor of Rota, in accordance with an adopted resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation.

After much deliberation, the Conferees agreed that the amendments made by the Senate, as reflected in House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, SD1, are vital to the recovery efforts in the First Senatorial District.

The Conference Committee Members have agreed to all Senate amendments reflected in House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, and SD1, and have made no additional amendments. Therefore, the Conference Committee recommends that the House and Senate pass House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, SD1, in the form of House Bill No. 24-91, HS1, SD1, Conference Committee Substitute 1, upon the adoption and acceptance of this Conference Committee Report.

The Conference Committee shall dissolve upon the official adoption of House Bill No. 24-91, 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. 24-91, 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 First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

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 respond to Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel 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 for the typhoon disaster relief operations and personnel 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, the $300,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC is appropriated as follows:

Out of the $300,000.00, $200,000.00 shall be used to fund Super Typhoon disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District, and $100,000.00 is reserved for personnel and operations for the Office of the Mayor of Rota, in accordance with an adopted resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation."

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 in a portion under this Act, Section 2, shall be the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.

Section 5. Fund Transfer.

The $300,000.00 appropriated under Section 2 shall be transferred within a reasonable time by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority to the Rota Municipal Treasury upon this Act becoming law.

Section 6. Reporting Requirement. The Mayor of Rota shall provide a monthly expenditure report of the funds appropriated in a portion of Section 2 to the Chairperson of the Rota Legislative Delegation.

Section 7. Reprogramming. The funds appropriated in a portion under Section 2 shall not be reprogrammed unless approved by resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation.

Section 8. 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 9. 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 10. 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
/s/ Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Jose A. Bermudes
Legal Counsel

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

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

Date: 3/10/2026