

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 5, 2025

Second Regular

Session, 2025

H. B. 24- 76

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To adopt the village delimitation and name master map for Saipan as the sole village delimitation and name master map of Saipan and to provide for the Office of the Mayor of Saipan to be the primary custodian for maintaining and preserving the master map and for the Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division to be the secondary custodian; and for other purposes.

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

- 1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be cited as the “Saipan Village  
2 Delimitation and Name Master Map”.
- 3           **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth Legislature  
4 recognizes that the islands within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
5 Islands can be distinctly identified by the names of the different villages located on  
6 each island. Residents and many visitors recognize they are in Saipan by the village  
7 name, such as Chalan Kanoa, or they identify Tinian when an address mentions  
8 Marpo, and they know they are in Rota when directions to a business lead to  
9 Songsong. Every island features distinct village names that reflect its individuality.

1           The Legislature recognizes that identifying a village is essential for  
2 effectively responding to emergency calls, as reaching a specific location within  
3 minutes can be a matter of life and death. The legislature also recognizes that the  
4 U.S. Census Bureau has reliably carried out the decennial census, as mandated by  
5 Article I, § 2 of the U.S. Constitution, to gather data in the Commonwealth of the  
6 Northern Mariana Islands. This includes information on the population residing in  
7 each village across the three main islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, as well as  
8 the islands located north of Saipan. For many years, the CNMI Department of  
9 Commerce – Central Statistics Division (DOC-CSD) has been responsible for  
10 conducting the decennial census under the oversight of the U.S. Census Bureau,  
11 utilizing a statistical map to delineate the boundaries that distinguish one village  
12 from another. The statistical map also names the different areas within the  
13 boundaries, assigning each area its specific village name.

14           The Legislature additionally finds that residents and businesses in the  
15 CNMI are using online business transactions for purposes of ordering materials and  
16 supplies from outside the CNMI. While the residents and businesses enjoy door  
17 delivery of mail orders, couriers use local directions to locate a physical address,  
18 which is inefficient for couriers that are concerned with the cost of delivery. The  
19 Legislature further finds that another purpose of implementing the street naming  
20 and addressing system is to make door delivery of mails by the United States Postal  
21 Service a reality in the CNMI, a move that would ultimately reduce or even

1 eliminate for good the congestion at the USPS post office in Chalan Kanoa and  
2 other rural postal branches. By clearly identifying the village delimitation and  
3 name, timely and accurate delivery of mails and packages to a site specific would  
4 be greatly enhanced.

5         The Legislature finds it imperative for a standard village identification and  
6 delimitation master map to be developed and adopted to eliminate guesswork in  
7 identifying boundaries that separates one village from another. The Legislature  
8 acknowledges the considerable effort put forth by the mayors in defining the  
9 boundaries of the villages, identifying key landmarks for demarcation, recording  
10 boundary coordinates through Geographic Information System, and naming the  
11 villages within these boundaries using their historically recognized names that  
12 remain in use today. The Legislature further finds that, in the interest of time, the  
13 mayor of each municipality shall be granted the authority and power to adopt the  
14 standard village identification and delimitation master map for the municipality  
15 served by the mayor within one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this  
16 Act. The Legislature has received the master map from the Mayor of Saipan and it  
17 is the intent of the legislature to adopt the master map by this Act.

18         **Section 3. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws, rules or regulations to  
19 the contrary and subject to proper codification by the Commonwealth Law Revision  
20 Commission the following is hereby enacted:

1                   **“101. Definitions.**

2                   (a) “Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division or  
3                   DOC – CSD” means the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
4                   Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division as established by 1  
5                   CMC §§ 2481 – 2492.

6                   (b) “Mayor” shall mean the elected mayor of the island or islands  
7                   that the mayor was elected to serve, as provided in Article VI in the NMI  
8                   Constitution, and currently serving in that capacity

9                   (c) “Mayors” shall mean the mayors of the municipalities of Rota,  
10                  Tinian and Aguiguan, Saipan, and Northern Islands collectively

11                  (d) “Delineate or Delineation” shall mean to mark the outline of or  
12                  to indicate or represent by drawn or painted lines

13                  (e) “Delimit or Delimitation” shall mean marking of the boundary  
14                  on paper or electronic mapping application, either on an area map or in a  
15                  verbal description of the boundary within the text of a law

16                  (f) “Demarcate or Demarcation” shall mean a line, boundary, or  
17                  conceptual separation between things or villages that are easily identifiable  
18                  and visible on the ground or terrain

19                  (g) “Designated area or areas” shall mean an area of land within a  
20                  village and known by historical common usage or reference. Designated  
21                  areas are not villages, but are subareas within a village commonly known

1 by reference to a family name, description of a terrain, or commonly known  
2 by its agricultural farming usage

3 (h) "Landmark" shall mean a relatively permanent feature of the  
4 manmade landscape that has recognizable identity within a particular  
5 cultural context

6 (i) "Standard Master Map" shall mean the map that the respective  
7 mayors shall develop that shows the delimitation and demarcation  
8 separating one village from another and requires the adoption of the CNMI  
9 Legislature which shall become the sole standard map for each respective  
10 municipality

11 (j) "Statistical Map of Saipan" shall mean the map developed and  
12 used by the CNMI Department of Commerce – Central Statistics Division,  
13 using the 1984 United States Geography Information area maps, for  
14 purposes of conducting the decennial census in collaboration with the U.S.  
15 Census Bureau

16 (k) "Thoroughfare or Thoroughfares" shall mean a road or part of a  
17 road or other access route along which a delivery point can be accessed. A  
18 thoroughfare is typically but not always a road. It may be, for example, a  
19 walkway

20 (l) "Village or Villages" shall mean cluster of human settlement

21 **102. Adoption, custody, maintenance of the Saipan Village**

1           **Delimitation Name and Master Map.**

2                   (a) Adoption of the Saipan delimitation and name master map.

3                   (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan has submitted to the CNMI  
4           Legislature a map, titled, “Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master  
5           Map” in electronic format on **September 16, 2021**. The CNMI Legislature,  
6           by this Act, adopts the Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master Map.  
7           This Act provides the master map shall be the sole village delimitation and  
8           name map for Saipan. Other maps developed other than by the Office of the  
9           Mayor of Saipan in coordination with the Department of Commerce –  
10          Central Statistics Division shall be considered unofficial village  
11          delimitation and name master map.

12                   (b) Names of villages as shown on the standard village delimitation  
13          and name master map.

14                   (1) The standard village delimitation and name master map for the  
15          island of Saipan identifies 34 village names. This Act adopts those names.  
16          The names of the villages are as follows: (1.) Marpi; (2.) As Matuis; (3.)  
17          San Roque; (4.) Tanapag; (5.) Wireless; (6.) Talofofu; (7.) Lower Base; (8.)  
18          As Mahetog; (9.) Sadog Tasi; (10.) Puerto Rico; (11.) Capitol Hill; (12.) As  
19          Teo; (13.) Kagman; (14.) Papago; (15.) Tapochao; (16.) Navy Hill; (17.)  
20          Garapan; (18.) Gualo Rai; (19.) I Liyang; (20.) Chalan Laulau; (21.) Oleai;  
21          (22.) Chalan Kiya; (23.) Kanat Tabla; (24.) San Vicente; (25.) Dandan; (26.)

1 As Lito; (27.) Finasisu; (28.) Chalan Kanoa; (29.) Chalan Piao; (30.) As  
2 Perdido; (31.) San Antonio; (32.) Koblerville; (33.) I Naftan; (34.) Susupe.

3 (c) Names of common areas within a village considered subareas.

4 (1) The places or areas in the various villages as listed section (b) of  
5 this Act shall retain their common names but are not integrated in the  
6 standard village delimitation and name master map. For example, in the  
7 village of Marpi in north Saipan, reference to San Juan, Banderu, etc. retain  
8 their common reference names, and are considered subareas of Marpi  
9 Village. Subareas are not used for purposes of identifying the name of a  
10 village or village boundary on the standard village delimitation and name  
11 master map.

12 (d) Delimitation lines crossing same property or existing structure.

13 (1) In a situation where a delimitation line crosses an existing  
14 structure that results in one portion of the existing structure to be in one  
15 village and the other in another village, the existing structure shall be  
16 recorded as being located in the village where the existing building's main  
17 entrance door that is facing a street is located. For purposes of designating  
18 a street address number to an existing structure, the portion of the existing  
19 structure where the main entrance door is located and facing a street shall  
20 be assigned the street address number for that structure and the structure

1 shall recorded as being located in the village where the main entrance door  
2 to the existing building is located.

3 (e) Custody and maintenance of the Master Map.

4 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall be the sole primary  
5 custodian of the Saipan Village Delimitation and Name Master Map. As  
6 primary custodian, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall be responsible  
7 for ensuring no alterations, modifications, or changes are made to the  
8 adopted master map by any other agency in the public and private sectors.  
9 The office shall be the sole custodian of the master map and any alterations,  
10 modifications, or changes to the master map proposed by the office shall  
11 first be jointly reviewed, considered, and concurred with by the DOC –  
12 CSD.

13 (2) The DOC – CSD concurrence shall be required before  
14 implementing any alterations, modifications, or changes to the master map  
15 after the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and DOC – CSD have determined  
16 and agreed that such alterations, modifications, changes would not  
17 substantially alter, modify, or change DOC – CSD’s statistical map that it  
18 developed for purposes of its responsibilities of undertaking the decennial  
19 census and other censuses it is required to undertake.

20 (3) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall, at times but subject to  
21 availability of funds, maintain the master map in electronic mapping

1 system. As primary custodian, it shall maintain mapping system in ArcGIS  
2 and the online QGIS and must be maintained by using the applications that  
3 are current, as updated by their respective developers. It may, in addition  
4 and subject to availability of funding, maintain the village delimitation and  
5 name master map on Google Earth, which site must be secured from  
6 unauthorized editing and must be available to the public.

7 **103. Authority to share data.**

8 (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall share data generated and  
9 collected from its field work at the request of the DOC – CSD. In developing  
10 its comprehensive statistical map and database for purposes of enhancing  
11 its statutorily described responsibilities and increasing its mapping  
12 capabilities, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan and DOC – CSD shall agree  
13 on a defined schedule of sharing updates to the master map. For purposes  
14 of safekeeping and preserving data, the DOC – CSD, as second custodian,  
15 shall be responsible for keeping and updating backup electronic mapping  
16 and database generated from the regular maintenance of the master map.

17 (2) The master map adopted by this Act shall contain, among other  
18 critical data, attributes that identify the name of a village, provide the village  
19 boundary limits, coordinates, description of landmarks, immovable  
20 physical features, description of terrain, names of streets where village  
21 limits are defined using the centerlines, and so forth.

1                   **104. Demarcation of village limits.**

2                   (1) The Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall solely be responsible for  
3                   demarcating the village limits by identifying immovable physical features  
4                   on the ground, for example, monuments, permanent public or private  
5                   structures or improvements on leased public lands, street centerlines, street  
6                   intersection centerlines, natural contours, e.g., top or foot of precipice, and  
7                   other easily identifiable physical features in the terrain. The Office of the  
8                   Mayor of Saipan shall record the location of the immovable, identifiable  
9                   physical features by using a geographic information system device capable  
10                  of pinpointing the exact coordinate location. In inaccessible terrains, the  
11                  Office of the Mayor of Saipan shall use existing data based on polygon  
12                  calculations to identify the point-to-point boundary limits. The Office of the  
13                  Mayor of Saipan shall, to the extent practicable, not use improvements or  
14                  structures on private land as landmarks, unless it determines that do so in  
15                  necessary.

16                  (2) Removal of permanent improvement or structure from privately  
17                  owned land shall not be a basis to alter the locational coordinate previously  
18                  recorded. It shall remain the coordinate point for the village demarcation  
19                  regardless whether a new improvement or structure is later erected.

20                  (3) No person may move or remove a permanent public or private  
21                  structure or monument on public land without first verifying whether the

1 structure or monument is a recorded landmark for purposes of village  
2 delimitation and demarcation. Such verification shall be submitted to the  
3 Office of the Mayor of Saipan, from which a response must be issued not  
4 later than fifteen days after receipt for the verification.

5 **105. Election precinct maps.**

6 (1) The Saipan delimitation and name master map does not in any  
7 way, shape, or form alter, modify, or change the election precincts map, as  
8 developed and maintained by the Commonwealth Election Commission.  
9 Until the Commonwealth Election Commission re-draws the election  
10 precincts delineation, the village delimitation shown on the master map  
11 shall not affect the election precinct boundaries based on the last  
12 apportionment.”

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

18 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein  
19 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or  
20 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted  
21 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding

1 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have  
2 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,  
3 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

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

Prefiled: 12/5/2028

Date:

Introduced by:

Denitama  
Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai  
PK Denita  
Out  
W. Lee  
AW  
M.A. Co  
Rw

Introductory Paper  
Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Karinal  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 12-5-25