

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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SESSION, 2025

H. J. R. 24-11

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**A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

Directing the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and all relevant Commonwealth government agencies and public corporations to expedite planning, permitting, and deployment of viable renewable energy, storage, and resilience projects — and to coordinate energy-security and infrastructure-resilience strategies — in light of the accelerated phase-out of federal clean-energy incentives under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

1           **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands remains  
2 heavily dependent on imported diesel fuel for power generation, exposing residents,  
3 businesses, and government entities to high electricity costs, global fuel-price  
4 shocks, and supply-chain vulnerabilities, with Tinian and Rota facing even greater  
5 logistical constraints; and

6           **WHEREAS**, the reliability of power generation, water systems, health  
7 facilities, schools, ports, and other essential services is increasingly threatened by  
8 extreme weather events, infrastructure fragility, and fuel-transport disruptions,  
9 underscoring the urgent need for more resilient and diversified energy systems; and

10           **WHEREAS**, on July 4, 2025, the President of the United States signed into  
11 law H.R. 1, known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), a comprehensive

1 tax and spending measure that significantly curtails the availability of federal clean-  
2 energy incentives previously supporting renewable-energy projects in the states,  
3 territories, and insular areas; and

4         **WHEREAS**, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act substantially shortens the  
5 window for federal clean-energy support by terminating residential solar, battery  
6 storage, and home-efficiency credits for equipment placed in service after  
7 December 31, 2025; and

8         **WHEREAS**, preserving utility-scale solar and wind incentives only for  
9 projects that begin construction by July 4, 2026 and are placed in service by  
10 December 31, 2027, subject to strict documentation and supply-chain restrictions;  
11 and

12         **WHEREAS**, these curtailed incentives — verified through publicly  
13 available analyses from the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and  
14 national energy law practitioners (e.g., Williams Mullen) — create a compressed  
15 federal opportunity window within which the Commonwealth must act or risk  
16 forfeiting remaining credits and program eligibility; and

17         **WHEREAS**, the compressed incentive timeline imposes a practical and  
18 immediate responsibility on the Commonwealth to identify which renewable-  
19 energy and resilience projects are capable of meeting federal deadlines and which  
20 will require local funding solutions in the near future; and

1           **WHEREAS**, failure to act swiftly risks (a) losing eligibility for remaining  
2 federal incentives, (b) locking the Commonwealth into deeper dependence on  
3 imported diesel, and (c) subjecting ratepayers to higher long-term costs and reduced  
4 energy security; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the Legislature finds that proactive coordination among the  
6 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Commonwealth Ports Authority  
7 (CPA), Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), Public School System  
8 (PSS), Department of Public Works (DPW), and other relevant agencies is essential  
9 to prevent wasted planning, preserve viable projects, and ensure that federal  
10 deadlines can be met where possible; and

11           **WHEREAS**, a structured Action Plan — including project inventory,  
12 feasibility review, deadline compliance analysis, implementation timelines, and  
13 fallback strategies — will enable the Commonwealth to objectively assess which  
14 projects are federally viable and which require local support; and

15           **WHEREAS**, quarterly legislative reporting on progress under the Action  
16 Plan will promote transparency, accountability, and oversight, enabling the  
17 Legislature to make informed decisions regarding appropriations, regulatory  
18 adjustments, or emergency measures to support the Commonwealth's long-term  
19 energy security and affordability; and

1           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of  
2 Representatives, the Senate concurring, that the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
3 Commonwealth Legislature hereby directs:

4           1. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Action Plan (90-Day Deadline).

5           The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) — in coordination with  
6 CPA, CHCC, PSS, DPW, and any other relevant agencies — shall prepare and  
7 submit to the Legislature within 90 days a Comprehensive Commonwealth Energy  
8 & Resilience Action Plan, which shall:

9           a. inventory all active, planned, or partially developed renewable-energy,  
10 storage, micro-grid, and resilience projects;

11           b. identify which projects can realistically meet OBBBA’s federal tax-credit  
12 eligibility deadlines;

13           c. designate “shovel-ready” or “near-shovel-ready” projects for accelerated  
14 permitting and procurement;

15           d. recommend fallback financing strategies (Commonwealth-funded,  
16 ratepayer-funded, or hybrid) for critical projects unable to meet federal deadlines;  
17 and

18           e. include specific timetables, benchmarks, and inter-agency coordination  
19 milestones.

20           2. Executive and Agency Coordination.

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1           The Governor’s Office and all relevant agencies shall prioritize and  
2 expedite permits, reviews, procurement processes, and approvals necessary to  
3 implement the Action Plan, recognizing that delay may result in lost federal  
4 incentives and increased long-term costs to the Commonwealth.

5           3. Quarterly Legislative Reporting.

6           CUC and participating agencies shall submit quarterly reports to the  
7 Legislature detailing major project developments, procurement milestones,  
8 construction status, federal-eligibility assessments, and any obstacles requiring  
9 legislative support or intervention.

10          4. Integration Into Capital Planning.

11          All Commonwealth agencies with capital-planning responsibilities shall  
12 incorporate energy-resilience and renewable-energy opportunities into the design  
13 and financing of public infrastructure to reduce reliance on imported diesel and  
14 improve long-term affordability.

15          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
16 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk  
17 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint  
18 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the  
19 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
20 Islands; Kevin Watson, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;  
21 Ramon A. Tebuteb, Chairperson, Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of

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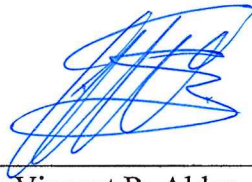
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1 Directors; Esther L. Muna, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare  
2 Corporation; Dr. Lawrence Camacho, Commissioner, CNMI Public School  
3 System; Ray N. Yumul, Secretary, Department of Public Works; and Honorable  
4 Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the 119<sup>th</sup> United States Congress.

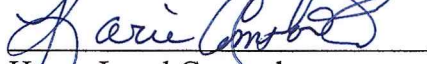
Prefiled: 12/30/2024

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

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

  
Rep. Vincent R. Aldan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

Date: 12-23-25