

COW & Calendar
8/15/2025

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 15, 2025

Sec. Regular SESSION, 2025

H. J. R. 24-7

A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

To encourage the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to declare a Proactive Resilience Emergency Declaration to protect the Commonwealth's renewable energy future in light of the approaching federal deadline under the 2025 "Big Beautiful Budget" Act (BBB); and urging all agencies to fast-track renewable energy projects before the opportunity expires.

1 **WHEREAS**, the 2025 "Big Beautiful Budget" (BBB) Act phases out
2 federal clean energy tax credits and grants unless renewable energy projects are
3 awarded by September 30, 2025, and commence by December 31, 2025, a deadline
4 that could determine the fate of the CNMI's energy future; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth has long struggled with high energy costs
6 (more than three times the U.S. average) due to a near-total reliance on imported
7 diesel fuel, with Tinian and Rota facing even greater challenges due to limited
8 shipping, high transport costs, and unreliable supply chains; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) reported in
10 its Fiscal Year 2023 Citizen-Centric Report that production fuel costs for power
11 generation alone totaled \$67+million, which is paid by the CNMI community as

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1 the “fuel surcharge”, underscoring the immense financial burden of the
2 Commonwealth’s continued reliance on expensive imported fuel; and

3 **WHEREAS**, energy is an economic driving force for the CNMI
4 community, powering critical infrastructure, businesses, and daily life, and
5 achieving lower energy costs and greater energy security is vital to the
6 Commonwealth’s economic stability and growth; and

7 **WHEREAS**, now more than ever, we must act not in fear, but with
8 Proactive Resilience, making forward-thinking choices to secure affordable, stable
9 power for our families, protect our environment, create local jobs, and safeguard
10 our children’s future; and

11 **WHEREAS**, several major renewable energy projects across Saipan,
12 Tinian, and Rota – including public school solar installations, a Commonwealth
13 Utilities Corporation solar farm, and energy resilience upgrades at ports, clinics,
14 and water systems – are “shovel-ready” but stalled in paperwork and risk
15 cancellation if not accelerated before the federal window closes; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI Constitution and emergency management laws
17 empower the Governor to issue official directives or declarations to address “other
18 calamities” – including economic and energy crises that endanger the public good;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, previous administrations have invoked emergency
21 declarations to stabilize essential utilities and critical infrastructure in times of

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1 crisis, thereby establishing a precedent for such extraordinary measures to
2 safeguard the public welfare; and

3 **WHEREAS**, today the Commonwealth faces a similar inflection point not
4 caused by a natural disaster but by shifting federal policy, which threatens our long-
5 term energy stability and requires a proactive, unified response; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a “Proactive Resilience Emergency Declaration” will enable
7 the Governor to: Fast-track project approvals and permitting; Coordinate a whole-
8 of-government response; Reprogram resources to meet urgent deadlines; And send
9 a strong, unifying message that we are taking control of our energy destiny before
10 others decide it for us;

11 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
12 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
13 Legislature, the Senate concurring, that the House and Senate respectfully
14 encourages Governor David M. Apatang to issue a **Proactive Resilience**
15 **Emergency Declaration** in response to the approaching BBB Act deadlines,
16 empowering agencies and communities to complete federally eligible clean energy
17 projects in time; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the House and Senate urges all
19 Commonwealth government agencies, departments, and public corporations to
20 pursue lower energy costs by immediately prioritizing, coordinating, and

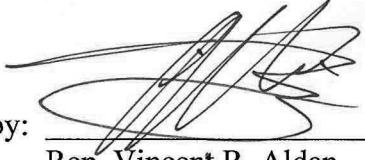
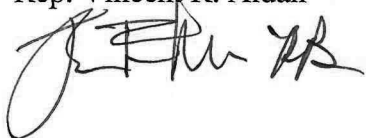
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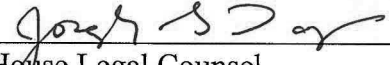
1 expediting the awarding and mobilization of renewable energy projects before the
2 critical deadlines of September 30 and December 31, 2025, respectively; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk
5 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint
6 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
7 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands; Kevin Watson, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;
9 Ramon A. Tebuteb, Chairperson, Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of
10 Directors; Esther L. Muna, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare
11 Corporation; Dr. Lawrence Camacho, Commissioner, CNMI Public School
12 System; Ray N. Yumul, Secretary, Department of Public Works; and Honorable
13 Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the 119th United States Congress.

Prefiled: 8/12/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by: 
Rep. Vincent R. Aldan


Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

House Legal Counsel

Date: 8-12-25