

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 5, 2025

Second

REGULAR SESSION, 2025

H. L. B. 24-37

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To rename Isa Drive to “Governor Carlos S. Camacho Drive” in honor of the First Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF

THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

2 Devoted to public service for decades, the Honorable Carlos S. Camacho
3 was born on the island of Saipan of February 27, 1937. He received a Bachelor of
4 Medicine degree from the Fiji School of Medicine and a Master of Public Health
5 degree from the University of Hawaii. Following his graduation, he practiced
6 medicine until he was elected to the Congress of Micronesia in 1967. Camacho then
7 served as the Pacific Islands’ Chief Medical Officer of Public Health from 1969 to
8 1977. In 1976, he was appointed to the Northern Marianas Constitutional
9 Convention.

10 Camacho was then elected as the first governor of the Northern Mariana
11 Islands in 1977.

1 Operationalizing the new government: Governor Camacho was the
2 inaugural holder of the position after the NMI Constitution was approved and came
3 into full effect on January 9, 1978. His administration was responsible for the initial
4 setup and functioning of the new self-governing body under the Covenant with the
5 United States.

6 Developing public infrastructure: He initiated projects for the development
7 of the islands, including efforts to improve infrastructure and public services which
8 were still largely controlled by the federal government at the time.

9 Managing federal relations: His administration worked toward gaining
10 more self-government and self-determination for the CNMI, navigating the initial
11 relationship with the U.S. federal government under the new Commonwealth
12 status. A notable event was his veto of a legislative budget portion for Rota capital
13 improvements, which led to a legal case that helped define the boundaries of
14 executive power and the application of the Covenant provisions.

15 Fostering local talent: He encouraged many educated Chamorros who had
16 left the islands (a "brain drain") to return and take on administrative and leadership
17 roles within the new government, which helped stabilize the new administration
18 with skilled personnel.

19 He is a man whose generosity—evident in the time, wisdom, and
20 compassion he freely shares—has offered guidance and support to many
21 throughout the Commonwealth. Beyond his public service, he is cherished as a

1 devoted family man: a loving husband, devoted father, proud grandfather,
2 supportive brother, and caring uncle. His character is defined by humility and
3 kindness, personal qualities that have earned him as much affection in private life
4 as respect in public life. This balance of achievement and service to humanity forms
5 the core of his lasting legacy.

6 Governor Carlos S. Camacho's tenure was pivotal in the transition of the
7 Northern Mariana Islands from a Trust Territory to a self-governing
8 Commonwealth in political union with the United States. This designation will
9 stand as a lasting tribute to his leadership, his contributions to the Commonwealth,
10 and the enduring legacy of his pioneering leadership, which established the
11 fundamental political, economic, and administrative foundations for the modern
12 CNMI government.

13 **SECTION 2. STREET RENAMING.**

14 The public roadway presently known as Isa Drive is hereby renamed the
15 "Governor Carlos S. Camacho Drive" in honor of the Honorable Carlos S.
16 Camacho, the first Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
17 Islands and long-serving public servant of the Commonwealth.

18 **SECTION 3. ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY.**

19 The Mayor of Saipan is authorized to implement and administer the
20 provisions of this Act, including the installation of appropriate street signage
21 reflecting the new name.

1 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

7 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

15 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming
17 law without such approval.

Prefiled: 12/5/2025

Date: Dec. 5, 2025 Introduced by: Denita Kaipat Yangetmai





Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Karen M. O'Brien
House Legal Counsel

Date: 12-5-2025