

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

SESSION, 2025

H. Res. 24-21

A HOUSE 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

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

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; and

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

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the House urges all Commonwealth
18 government agencies, departments, and public corporations to pursue lower energy
19 costs by immediately prioritizing, coordinating, and expediting the awarding and
20 mobilization of renewable energy projects before the critical deadlines of
21 September 30 and December 31, 2025, respectively; and

HOUSE RESOLUTION 24-21

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives shall certify and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this
3 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the
4 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
5 Islands; Kevin Watson, Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;
6 Ramon A. Tebuteb, Chairperson, Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of
7 Directors; Esther L. Muna, Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Healthcare
8 Corporation; Dr. Lawrence Camacho, Commissioner, CNMI Public School
9 System; Ray N. Yumul, Secretary, Department of Public Works; and Honorable
10 Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the 119th United States Congress;
11 and the Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors, Senate President, 24th Northern Marianas
12 Commonwealth Legislature.

Prefiled: 12/15/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____

Rep. Vincent R. Aldan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

Joseph S. Day
House Legal Counsel

Date: 12.3.25