



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

5th Day, First Regular Session

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Day, First Regular Session on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 02:01 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll for attendance with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Present
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Present
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

Clerk Linda Muña: Mr. Speaker, 18 members are present and 2 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: With 18 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives John Paul Sablan and Ralph Yumul are excused for today's session. We will now proceed to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is open to receive any comments. Please state your name and the entity you represent, you have five minutes. If you have prepared statements, please submit them to the Sergeant-at-Arms for forwarding to the Clerk's office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments were presented by one individual on the following item:

H. B. NO. 24-17: A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances.

There being no further public comments, the Chair moved down to Item 3, Adoption of Journals, and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following House Journal:

Second Day, First Regular Session Journal – February 14, 2025

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of Second Day, First Regular Session Journal – February 14, 2025; the motion was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion and there being none, the motion to adopt Second Day, First Regular Session Journal – February 14, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

During this time, the Chair informed the House that there are no introduction of Bills and moved to Item 5, Introductions of Resolutions, and recognized the Floor Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

House Bills:

None

House Local Bills:

None

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

None

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

There being no objection on the floor, the resolution was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the Whole. The Chair then ordered that the resolution be placed on the Resolution Calendar for consideration.

C. RES. NO. 24-2: To honor the life and legacy of the late Honorable Miguel Mendiola Sablan for his meaningful contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to his family. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself and the Committee of the Whole)

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. Let the record reflect that House Commemorative Resolution No. 24-2 has been introduced by the Committee of the Whole and will be placed on the Resolution Calendar for action today. There being nothing further under Introduction of Resolutions, we shall proceed.

During this time, the Chair proceeded to Item 6 and announced that there were no Messages from the Governor to be read. Furthermore, the Chair noted that there were no Senate Communications, House Communications, Communications from the Judiciary Branch, Communications from Departments and Agencies, Miscellaneous Communications, Reports of Standing Committees, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, or Unfinished Business for consideration. Following these announcements, the Chair moved to the Resolution Calendar.

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

Prior to recognizing the Floor Leader, the Chair provided an update to the members regarding the matter before the House, Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-02. The Chair informed the members that he would be meeting to discuss and determine the dates for the delivery of the State of the Commonwealth Address, which would be incorporated into the resolution. While the Governor had suggested that the Legislature adopt the resolution as presented, the Chair expressed reservations, noting the House's preference to insert a specific date for receiving the State of the Commonwealth Address.

There being no further discussion on the matter of Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-02, the Chair proceeded to recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. Res. No. 24-6:

H. RES. NO. 24-6 A House Resolution to honor and commend the life and legacy of the late Honorable Oscar Manglona Babauta for his life-long dedication and extensive contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-6 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. Res. No. 24-2:

C. RES. NO. 24-2: To honor the life and legacy of the late Honorable Miguel Mendiola Sablan for his meaningful contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to his family.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the motion to adopt C. Res. No. 24-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair moved down to Item 16, Bill Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading H. B. No. 24-17:

H. B. NO. 24-17 A Bill for an Act to amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the Clerk called the roll on the motion for passage on First and Final Reading, H. B. No. 24-17 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

Clerk Linda Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 18 members present voting “yes,” House Bill 24-17 hereby passes the House. Thank you, colleagues. With that, we now move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and the floor is open.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There being no discussions on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item 18, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There being no discussions on the floor, the Chair moved down to Adjournment, and recognized the Floor Leader.

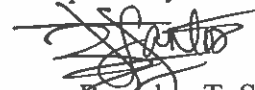
ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hereby move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. So move.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the motion for adjournment was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The House adjourned at 02:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 24-5: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law to define “Automobile Sales & Service” and to establish a screening requirement for “Automobile Sales & Service” businesses that are adjacent to certain zoning districts. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on March 21, 2025.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on March 21, 2025:

H. B. NO. 24-7: To ensure that the expenditure authority designated in the Annual Appropriation Act retains authority over all funds appropriated to it. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Julie M.A. Ogo) on March 11, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 24-14: To establish the Office of Financial Integrity and Compliance (OFIC) and the OFIC Oversight Committee to improve the CNMI Government's financial management and reporting. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Ralph N. Yumul) on March 21, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 24-15: To establish public sector employee and public sector employer relations through organized labor within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joel C. Camacho, and Marissa R. Flores) on March 21, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. B. NO. 24-16: To prioritize kinship placement for children in protective custody by requiring the Division of Youth Services identify and assess suitable kinship caregivers within 24 hours of removing a child from their home, mandating expedited judicial review of kinship placement recommendations, and prohibiting the placement of such children in confinement facilities. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on March 21, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. B. NO. 24-17: To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*, Representatives Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Malcolm J. Omar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on March 21, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. B. NO. 24-18: To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (EGaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Raymond U. Palacios, and Elias J.M. Rangamar) on March 21, 2025.

H. L. B. NO. 24-3: To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on March 21, 2025.

H. L. B. NO. 24-4: To appropriate Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00) for the Rota Medical Subsistence Allowance, Rota Little League Association and the Manamko trip, as well as Seven Hundred and Thirty-One Dollars (\$731.00) for fuel and lubrication under the Rota, Department of Lands and Natural Resources. Introduced by Representative Thomas J. DIC. Manglona on behalf of REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on March 21, 2025.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-5: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law to define “Automobile Sales & Service” and to establish a screening requirement for “Automobile Sales & Service” businesses that are adjacent to certain zoning districts. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on March 21, 2025.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-6: To appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$50,411.00 under Saipan Local Law 21-10 (Project Code 7192H) for the maintenance, repairs and improvements of Commonwealth parks and recreational facilities in Precinct IV and for the purchase of base coarse to repair secondary roadways in Precinct IV; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO and REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*) on March 21, 2025.

[Added-3/21/2025] H. RES. NO. 24-6: To honor and commend the life and legacy of the late Honorable Oscar Manglona Babauta for his life-long dedication and extensive contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on March 21, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.