

ADOPTED  
July 14, 2025



## HOUSE JOURNAL SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2025

**1<sup>st</sup> Day, Second Special Session**

**Thursday, May 15, 2025**

*The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Special Session on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 03:15 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members are present and 3 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Joseph Flores, Thomas Manglona, and Malcolm Omar are excused for today's session. Before we move to Item No. 2, Public Comments, I recognize the Floor Leader for the suspension of rules.

*The Floor Leader moved for the suspension of Rule III, Section 6.*

#### RULE III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

##### Section 6. Notice of Sessions.

Not less than 72 hours prior to convening a Regular or Special Session, the Speaker or a majority of the members of the House, shall file a written public notice of the date, time, and place of a session with the Clerk and post the same at the executive branch administration building and the Legislature's website. When possible, notices under this section shall be given to at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notices shall contain an agenda of items to be considered at the session. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such session. Once filed as part of this notice, the agenda may only be changed by adding items thereto by the recorded vote of the majority of the members of the House.

*The motion was seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting "yes," the motion carries. 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 six individuals on the following items:*

**H. B. NO. 24-15:** To establish public sector employee and public sector employee relations through organized labor within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**H. B. NO. 24-1:** To amend provisions in Title 6, Chapter 3, Sexual Offenses, Article 1. General Provisions, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors.

**S. L. B. NO. 24-01, D1:** To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-01 to provide for regulatory compliant internet gaming to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes.

*There being no further public comments presented and none under Item No. 3, Adoption of Journals, the Chair moved down to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized the Floor Leader under House Bills.*

## ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

## INTRODUCTION OF BILL

### *House Bills:*

*Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-28:** To establish a grand jury system in the Commonwealth for use in criminal investigations and prosecutions, and to provide for related powers and procedures. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Daniel I. Aquino Jr., and Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao)

*Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested the Chair to place on Bill Calendar:*

**H. B. NO. 24-29:** To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intragovernmental penalties and preserving enforceable debt obligations; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*Without objections on the floor, the Chair recognized the Floor Leader for the motion to place H. B. NO. 24-29 on the Bill Calendar.*

*The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule IX, Section 8.*

**RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS, AND AMENDMENTS.**

**Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions.**

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

*The motion was seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*There being no further introductions under House Bills, the Chair proceeded to House Local Bills and recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.*

***House Local Bills:***

*Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo officially introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-9:** To amend Rota Local Law 23-15, to appropriate One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$155,000.00) for the continued operation of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

*Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas officially introduced the following bill:*

**H. B. NO. 24-10:** To appropriate revenues collected for the Second Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59.

*Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada officially introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Joseph Arriola Flores:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-11:** To amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, Section 1211 concerning nonconforming auto rental offices with vehicles, for enhanced industry clarity and infrastructure utilization in the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

*There being no further introductions under House Local Bills; and there being no introductions under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and recognized Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho for the first item introduced under the House Resolutions.*

***House Legislative Initiatives:***

None

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

***House Resolutions:***

*Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho formally introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution is introduced by the Committee of the whole House:*

**H. RES. NO. 24-8:** To honor and congratulate the Saipan Southern High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Manta Ray Battalion for their exceptional performances at the Golden Bear West Coast National Drill Meet.

*There being no objections on the floor, H. Res. No. 24-8 is introduced by the Committee of the Whole and subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.*

***House Joint Resolutions:***

None

***House Commemorative Resolutions:***

*Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following resolution and requested that the resolution is introduced by the Committee of the whole House:*

**C. RES. NO. 24-3:** To honor Alleena Villaluz for her exceptional achievements in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, academics, and extracurricular activities, and to celebrate her unwavering dedication and exemplary contributions as a role model for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Diego V. F. Camacho, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*)

*There being no objections on the floor, C. Res. No. 24-3 is introduced by the Committee of the Whole and subsequently placed Resolution Calendar.*

***House Concurrent Resolutions:***

None

*There being no items under House Concurrent Resolutions, the Chair moved down to Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Clerk.*

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

*The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:*

GOV. COMM. 24-20: (4/11/2025 received 4/14/2025) Informing the House that he vetoed, S. L. B. NO. 24-01, D1, *(To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes.)*. [**Deadline 6/13/2025**]

GOV. COMM. 24-21: (4/7/2025 received 4/16/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. NO. 24-03, D2, *(To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59.)*. Became **Saipan Local Law 24-02 item vetoed** [**Deadline 6/15/2025**]

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 4:00 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 4:19 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: We rise back to session. Before going into recess, we were under Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor. And as mentioned by the Clerk, we have two Governor's Communication, Governor's Communications 24-20 and 24-21. The floor is open for discussions and I recognized Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Governor's Communication, we have two communications before us. That is Governor's Communication 24-20 and 24-21, and both these communications here are up for a vote for an override. Therefore, I want to state for the record my support of voting for an override. As we all know, as elected leaders here, that we are suffering economically on these very trying times. And with these legislations that are before us, that are calling and are promising for revenue to be generated into our CNMI. Therefore, I am in support and I am ready for the vote.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*



Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And yes, as Representative Sablan mentioned, we have two items up for override, and both are revenue-generating bills that require this body to act. And then it will be sent to the Senate for them to act. But this is our constitutional duty, this is our job, this is what we have to do. While the first communication is directed toward our second senatorial district of Tinian. It is known through the public and here out of mutual respect that whatever happens in the senatorial district, the first senatorial district, and the third senatorial district, locally, there is a mutual respect that we are given an autonomy to grow our economy every which way we fit. However, this bill or this communication also was commented on by our Attorney General, who we also seek guidance from in terms of legislation. And I have a big respect for our Attorney General, because he was elected like us. He has a duty to help navigate and provide his opinion on the constitution and our bills that are being presented forward locally and Commonwealth-wide. If you could just allow me, Mr. Speaker, I think this is very important, because every time we talk about casinos, there is always a bitter pill to swallow. And I have made that very clear with lobbyists, with anybody coming to discuss with me why this bill, or this communication, this override, is so important. And yes, it is true, we are in dire need of money. But what I do not like is when we are desperate and we are now forced to make a decision because we are desperate once again. And every time we are desperate, it always seems that we come back to the casino all the time. For some reason, it is just that. And I will tell you why, because it is lucrative. There is money to be made everywhere, and in this one, this is the internet. So, you have a developer, you have an information technology guy, and you have all kinds of people working behind the scenes making money, somehow. But I want to make it very clear to my colleague from Tinian that as you, if anything happens with this bill today, the Commonwealth will also gain from the business's gross revenue. Now I was listening to the two comments received from Mr. Norita and Mr. Vin Armani saying that they are ready to go at the press of a button. People are watching, wonderful. That is great. But as a representative, I do not like to be pushed to a corner to make a decision based on fear. So, with that said, Mr. Speaker and esteemed colleagues, we often hear about the virtues of quick thinking and seizing the moment. We celebrate those who make split decisions, trusting their gut and reacting swiftly to changing circumstances. But while there is a time and a place for rapid response, particularly in times of crisis, we must acknowledge the significant risk of potential pitfalls of impulsive and reactive decision-making, especially when it comes to the long-term success of our Marianas and the well-being of our constituents. Today I want to talk about the other side of the coin, about the importance of careful planning, thoughtful deliberation, and patience to see our decisions through. In the realm of governance, these qualities are not merely virtues. They are essential for effective leadership and enduring process. In the fast-paced world of enduring politics, we are often pressured to act quickly. We fear missing the news cycle or being seen as indecisive or slow. But this obsession with speed can often lead us astray. Impulsive decisions made without careful consideration of all the ramifications are more likely to be based on incomplete information, flawed assumptions, and fleeting political passions. We might feel a rush of accomplishment in passing a bill quickly, a sense of political victory in responding swiftly to a crisis. But the consequences of these decisions can linger long after headlines have faded, potentially derailing our long-term goals for the Marianas and undermining public interest in our institutions. Reactive decisions made in response to immediate stimuli or external pressures suffer from a similar flaw. Instead of being driven by core values or constitutional principles and a long-term vision for the Marianas, they are dictated by the crisis of the moment, the demands of special interest groups, or the shifting of political

opinion. We become like leaves blown by the wind, constantly reacting to the latest crisis or demand without ever taking the time to chart our own course. This reactive approach can leave us feeling like we are constantly putting out fires, never truly in control of our legislative agenda, and ultimately failing to address the root causes of the challenges facing the Marianas. Slow, deliberate planning, on the other hand, which they have mentioned they have done, offers a powerful antidote to these dangers by taking the time to carefully analyze a situation, to thoroughly vet all policy options, and to consider the potential consequences of our actions across different sectors of society and across future generations. We can make choices that are more aligned with the long-term goals and values of the Marianas. We can seek out diverse perspectives from experts, stakeholders, and the public; conduct rigorous research; and ensure that our decisions are based on the best available evidence. We can anticipate unintended consequences, identify implementation challenges, and develop robust contingency plans to mitigate risk before they arise because, once again, here we are. We can ensure that our policies are consistent with the Constitution, uphold the rule of law, and reflect the fundamental values and principles that underpin our democracy. We can lay the groundwork for sustainable growth, build strong and resilient communities, and create a future that is both prosperous and just for all. But patience, patience is perhaps the most crucial element of this approach. It requires us to resist the urge for instant gratification to delay immediate political victories in favor of the greater long-term gains of the Marianas. It demands that we trust the legislative process even when the path forward is complex and the results are not immediately apparent. This kind of patience is not passive. It is not about waiting for problems to solve themselves, it is about actively working towards our goals with a steady focus and unwavering commitment to the common good. It is about having the self-discipline to stay the course, to engage in constructive dialogue, and to build consensus even when faced with partisan gridlock and public pressure. In a world that often celebrates speed and impulsivity, let us not forget the enduring power of slow, deliberate planning and the vital importance of patience in governance. By taking the time to think carefully, to act thoughtfully, and to persevere patiently, we can make decisions that not only serve our immediate political needs but also pave the way for the long-term security, prosperity, and well-being of our Marianas. Let us strive to be lawmakers who are remembered not for the speed of our actions but for the wisdom, foresight, and enduring impact of our policies. With that said, I pressure and I challenge my colleague from Tinian. Should this body decide in favor of this override, sir, I plead with you that the lines of communication open, remain open, and that any dialogue on business gross revenue come to Tinian, that there is a consequence for a failure to do so, and that anybody that challenges the system that is made to prohibit illicit activity and any other activity that comes with this i-gaming be prosecuted. Attorney Hines, you are right there sitting in. I am sure you can hear this. Follow this carefully because our people are done with *bondan fina'gaga*, *chadik enao na* impulse, *hafa tu mananai amyu, tu asu*. But my loyalty is to the people. I will make that very clear. Tinian, this is your responsibility. But our constitution says that when we have to override a governor, it requires all of us. Even those not living in your district. So, *put fabot*, I ask for your indulgence. And I ask that you, please, advocate for everybody now. Because now, we are voting for this override that pertains to the people of Tinian. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield.

*The Chair recognized Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.*

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Floor Leader, this is not only for Tinian. I will tell you that. This is for the whole Commonwealth. And overriding



this senate local bill, it is a forward-looking measure that gives our island and our commonwealth the legal infrastructure to enter a global digital company through standalone internet gaming licenses and the creation of Tinian stablecoin. This is not a rushed thing into unregulated digital wireless. This is a bill about transparency. This is a bill about accountability and modern financial infrastructure. It is about building an economy within the commonwealth. It is about the number of flights landing in the Commonwealth or the rise and fall of tourists coming in. It is about taking control of our economic future in a way that is legal, auditable, and competitive with international standards. Tinian stablecoin is an envision in this bill. It is not speculative cryptocurrency; it is a virtual currency that will be issued and regulated by the municipality, designed to enable transparency and secure, traceable online wagering. Every transaction will be recorded, and every movement of funds will be accounted for. This will be the financial integrity embedded in code. With a stablecoin, we will give operators and regulators in the second senatorial district a clear, tamperproof financial trail, enhancing our reputation for oversight for the whole Commonwealth and enforcing the legitimacy of our gaming industry in an era where financial transparency is key to international compliance. And this will be our competitive edge. Dependency, let us speak about it honestly, Madam Floor Leader and members of this body, the Commonwealth is facing a deep economic crisis. Legacy businesses are closing down, tourist arrivals have plummeted, air service is unreliable, federal support is diminishing, and our islands are no longer waiting for solutions to come from outside. Through the enactment of this Senate Local Bill No. 24-1, the Second Senatorial District will have the legal framework and digital infrastructure to improve more throughout the Commonwealth, not only Tinian. And as a political will to lead this frontier, let me just put this one simply, we need this legislation to unlock our potentials. This bill does not depend on walking tourists or federal subsidies. It builds a digital industry generating revenue from licensed jurisdiction. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, honestly, this is more than a bill. This is a blueprint of economic resilience, a strategy to survive and thrive in changing the world, a call to embrace innovation. While demanding transparency and regulatory oversight, I ask each and every one in this chamber to vote yes to override the veto of this local bill. And let us stand together, not only for Tinian but for the entire Commonwealth's future. Let us do it with confidence, vision, and purpose. I ask each and every one of you to vote yes for this override. Mr. Speaker, thank you, and I yield.

*The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.*

Vice Speaker Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, this will not be an easy vote. We have been asked to override the governor's veto of a bill allowing Tinian to launch online gaming with a stablecoin system. And it is a big move that comes with a big risk. We have three options today: yes, no, or abstain. A yes supports a new economic direction, and a no says the risk is too high. Abstention says we are not ready, and I have considered all three. Tinian is asking for the chance to try something different, and we have seen what happened to the Tinian Dynasty. Big promises and bigger collapses. We have seen it again with IPI on Saipan. Lavish development, little accountability, and lasting consequences. Like that big white elephant down there in precinct three. Lessons were learned, and we must make sure this online gaming venture is different. At least this time it is not brick and mortar. No buildings, no excavators, no land giveaways, and just a digital platform. This proposal is local and does not cost the Commonwealth a dime. I realize that no technology regulates itself either. Oversight will matter from both the regulators and the legislature. And if it goes off course, if it passes and it goes off

course, we need to be prepared to hold wrongdoers accountable. That is our job here. They are not asking for guarantees, they are asking for a fair chance to move forward. So, here are my choices, vote no and block a legal, homegrown initiative with no better option on the table, abstain and delay the decision while Tinian and the rest of the Commonwealth waits, or vote yes because if Tinian is ready to try, then we are ready to monitor the risk. The risk is worth it. If we keep waiting for a perfect solution, we will be waiting forever. Somebody said a few weeks ago, “No one is coming to save us.” If Tinian is ready, let us not hold them back. If Tinian wins, the whole CNMI wins. Mr. Speaker, I am waiting for the vote.

*The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.*

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: After going through a heavy discussion and getting educated, I have decided to vote “yes,” *rel override yel. Bwe igha Tchiliól mille re tipeli internet gaming yel. Nge mille ghatchul nge ngare e tooto bwe e successful, ghiisch mille sibwe bwal yaya. Alongaló faliw loll Commonwealth yel rebwe bwal yaya. Siya lúghu ngalir Retchuliól bwe rebwe ngalleey ghiisch yaasch share. Millel nge eew revenue bill.* Thank you, Speaker.

Translation: After going through a heavy discussion and getting educated, I have decided to vote “yes” on this override because the people of Tinian support this internet gaming. And the good thing about it is if it becomes successful, we would also get a share. All of the Commonwealth would benefit from it. Let us give the people of Tinian the green light with this industry so we can all benefit from it. This is a revenue generating bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.*

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform Representative San Nicolas that I too will be voting yes on both overrides. As far as the internet gaming, that is a billion-dollar industry, and I would also like to have sports betting, like sports betting. Bet on anything. That is the most lucrative business that is out there. As far as Tinian, I have family there, both on my father’s and mother’s side. So, my decision is to just say yes to help the people of Tinian and to help the people of the CNMI. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to support the second senatorial district. I have been working, actually, with the developer since the Twenty-Second Legislature, when I tried to introduce i-gaming in the CNMI. However, because the CNMI, or Saipan, was not popular at the time. So, we had a second win. When the bill was introduced in the second senatorial district, which allowed gaming there, it was a lot easier. And I agree with them coming from the Senate side or that side of the house, supporting it makes it a lot easier. This is to allow digital gaming platform, there are going to be regulatory bodies out there. We still have to deal with FinCEN (Financial Crimes Enforcement Network) and all those digital platform regulators. We still have the Department of Finance. I believe the Department of Finance is doing a good job. I remember when we did pass the e-gaming. I did not support it at first, but now there is an industry. The Department of Finance is regulating it. They are collecting the data, and I have

no doubt that they will hire additional employees to ensure that the transparency between the company that is going to be handling this will be very clear with us. With that, Mr. Speaker, I am ready for the vote.

*The Chair recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.*

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a representative of the first senatorial district of Rota, I stand in strong support of overriding the governor's veto of Tinian's Local Law 24-09. This measure was enacted by duly elected leaders of the second senatorial district, who are best positioned to decide what is right for the people and their island's future. Like Rota, the people of Tinian voted for the casino industry as a means to drive economic activity and create jobs. For years, both our communities have worked to jumpstart this industry, not because it is perfect but because it presents a viable opportunity to uplift our local economies. We understand the risk, but we also understand the needs of our people. We believe in building the right safeguards while still moving forward. The Tinian stablecoin is a creative and forward-thinking step toward making the casino industry more secure, transparent, and competitive in a changing global economy. More importantly, it presents the kind of innovation that local leaders must be allowed to pursue on behalf of their constituents. As a representative from Rota, I share the same sentiment as the second senatorial district. Each senatorial district knows what is best for their people. I fully support overriding the veto and encourage my colleagues to stand in solidarity with Tinian's leader and their vision to bring economic opportunities home. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao.*

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, colleagues, for sharing your points of view in regard to the governor's communications. But before we forget, we also have another Governor's Communication No. 24-21. And I am respectfully asking the colleagues to please support the override on the communication for the mere fact that the governor's message to the legislative branch is contradictory to his actions in disapproving certain sections of House Local Bill No. 24-3, D2. The governor's communication or submission of why he line-item vetoed sections, and I quote, "The bill does not contain any substantive findings or purpose statements defining the intent of the legislation to ensure that the funds are used for public purposes." At the same time, he allowed multiple sections in the legislation to be approved that did not have the substantive statement, I mean, purposes of why those monies should be used or how they were going to be used. But yet disapproved certain sections. So, I ask, colleagues, if we can support the override on Governor's Communication No. 24-21 just through the inconsistency of the governor's message and his actions on the legislation itself. As for Governor's Communication No. 24-20, I support the override on his specific legislation as well. For the fact that in 1999 the people of Tinian had decided, through a referendum, decided to legalize casino gambling on the islands of Tinian and Aguiguan, the second senatorial district. And in that referendum, it was inclusive of internet gaming. Well, the internet, maybe at that time for the most of us, we did not even know existed. They had it in there because they followed suit with what the state of Nevada had provided for their casino gambling in their respective state. In that same referendum, the people of Tinina voted on including a section that would allow its leaders to make amendments. And in this case, it is the leaders from Tinian that made amendments to address what the referendum needed to upgrade for different types of gaming industries in the second

senatorial district. It is just unfortunate that when it comes to something that is vetoed on the local, for the local legislation, both the House and the Senate have to act on it. And it puts, at least on the House side, the members from the first and second senatorial districts at a disadvantage because there is only one member. And that one member has to work ten times harder than the members from Saipan to ask for an override. Because now you have to satisfy nineteen, eighteen at the very least, right? But nineteen to get the override going. So, since the people of Tinian voted on a referendum that allowed the leadership of Tinian to make changes to that referendum, and these are actions taken by the leadership, I think we should support that at the very least. Let them try it. It is allowed there. I believe Rota's referendum allows the same thing. And if Rota decided to do it, let them do it. The people have spoken in their respective senatorial districts. So, allow them to invest in themselves. At the end of the day, like the vice speaker said, it does not matter where, but if that respective municipality wins, then the CNMI wins in the end. With that being said, I ask for your support and an override for both communications. Thank you for the time, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho.*

Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Real quick, I just want to basically share my experience during these two terms. I guess in the House, in the office, myself and several other members have gone through two, I believe, two budget sessions already by far. And we all witnessed the difficulties and the struggles in properly funding each senatorial district. That being said, I strongly believe in this bill, and I feel it will succeed. I am just hoping it can basically sustain itself. I just see a lot of benefits to this bill. There are some flaws, if you will. However, everyone has their sentiments and different points of view on this bill. I just see more potential in it. So, I think I made a momentum. I am ready to vote as well. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.*

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do support both these bills, especially for the Tinian gaming. And this is, I mean, although this is not going to technically affect the whole entire CNMI. But I really do hope that the leadership in Tinian and the people in Tinian, please do not—I am asking you, please do not forget all the things that have happened before when it comes to casinos. We have the dynasty that fell apart, and we are still suffering. Tinian is still suffering, and we still have IPI (Imperial Pacific International). We, and I agree with my colleague, Chairman Angelo, do not have all the money in the world to divvy up to all the senatorial districts. And I really do hope, and I really do pray and wish, this thing works out. Because if it does, if we have learned anything from the past, it is that corruption, under-the-table dealings, favoritism, and all of those things do not work out. Everything has its pros and cons. And I am pretty sure that we are not blind to see that when we start hiding information that rightfully belongs to the public, things tend to fall apart. Is it too much to ask that the leadership of Tinian be open to their people and to the community to show everything to make sure that everything is moving the way it is supposed to move? Because if we have not learned anything from the Dynasty fiasco or the IPI fiasco, we have not learned anything at all. And if you truly are suffering, the whole entire Tinian community is suffering, and we do not have the money to support it. This is your chance. And I hope it works out. I am pretty sure that we could all work together to try to make things better. I just wish you guys the best, because evidently, there is no other plan. I have not seen anything come out of the governor's mouth. And that makes me mad. So, I hope I hear



something this coming SOCA. But whatever. Sometimes we have to do things that are not popular. But if that is the only road we have left, then that is the only road we have left. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I do support the two overrides.

*The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.*

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a lot has been said already on the table. I do share a lot of the sentiment that was said, most especially from our floor leader and our vice speaker. It is somewhat of a risk. But I think that the benefits outweigh the risks. With that, I would like to commend Tinian, second senatorial district, and the two gentlemen that came up before us in public comments for taking a proactive approach to this movement. With that, I support both bills before us to veto, I meant override. I am sorry. To override. And with that, I move to end the discussion and go to voting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Several members on the floor voiced "objection."*

*The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.*

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you. And my apologies to my colleague, Leader. I was not going to talk, but apparently everyone is talking. But I just wanted to share that I actually was in offense of this specific override because, one, obviously there was an opinion from the Attorney General, but I do see the need. Every week, we are hearing some bad news. T'way is cutting down their flights or suspending their flights in July, I believe, and then we have Jeju that is cutting down from three flights to one flight. Hearing of Elan cutting and DFS closure, it is just nonstop. What we need is a new cash infusion, and we are hoping, colleague from Tinian, you will pave the way and show us that there is a better way and there is a potential industry that can benefit not just the second senatorial district but the CNMI as a whole. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: I know Representative Ada wanted to end this discussion, but I objected only because. Thank you, Representative Camacho, for keeping this communication open. Representative from Tinian, I want to have my last word that you please *put fabot*. I read your bill. It is a great bill. But for a long time too, the first and third senatorial districts being the most populated of all of the districts in the Commonwealth, our people in our third senatorial district have also sacrificed. Unfortunately for Rota, they have yet to try to share because they have not made it there. But I think with this bill and with your leadership, I hope, *munga dei malefa ñami gimi gi* precinct three *put fabot*. *Sa* for a long time *insubi* all senatorial districts, and all I ask, *asu i* senatorial district one, *sa miyu nādu na salāpi*. You are talking about millions, hundred millions, billions, even trillions, maybe. But I think if you can spread it out outside of BGR, maybe another thirty percent, this way would be nice. *Lao*, take it up with your leadership. I would really appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios.*

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Baihu finu Chamorro-ha, noh. Pot ha Representa lokkue' lai si Patrick San Nicolas esti sa guaha lokkue' chelu-hu dos sumasaga Tinian ya put fabot bota lokkue' esti, sa man sasaga tana'hi, tana'hi yu na mana sina. Yo chagi, hâfa para ta lie'e para sia sa dupusiha? Pues finu Donald Trump nei i-lekkna na, hâfa yi ilek-ña, "leave i sanction gi i Siria" pues ta chagi ta gui lokkue' ta na'i chance.* Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.*

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas: *Ba ni na clara, Mr. Speaker. Sa Madam Floor Leader, nei, u target-yu mâmi. Maila ya bi sangan taiguie. Tisiña Tinian ma maipi etsu yan gin Luta yan taigüe Saipan. Tisiña Saipan ma maipi etsu yan gin taigüe Tinian yan Luta. Tisiña Luta maipi etsu yan taigüe Saipan yan Tinian. Esti gi u sâsângan na Commonwealth esti. Pues u mana guaha mâs i hâfa ma susedi pagu? Man namas'i. Pues we have to work together ni para ta na pucibli esti. It is not only second senatorial district. First, Second, and Third. The whole Commonwealth esti. I hâfa para un susedi? I hâfa para un recibi? It is not just one senatorial district. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am done.*

*There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to override the Governor's veto of Senate Local Bill No. 24-01, D1, entitled, "To amend Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide regulatory compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes," as referenced in Governor's Communication No. 24-20.*

*The motion was seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor's veto, as referenced in Governor's Communication No. 24-20, concerning Senate Local Bill No. 24-01, D1, entitled, "TO amend Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatory compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes," 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	Absent (during vote)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	No
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes



Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	No
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes,” 2 members voted “no,” and 4 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 14 members voting in favor of the override, that meets the two-thirds vote requirement. Therefore, the motion carries. For the record, Governor's Communication No. 24-20 is regarding Senate Local Bill No. 24-01, D1, “To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide regulatorily compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes.” I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved to override the Governor's veto of H. L. B. No. 24-03, D2, entitled, “To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59,” as referenced in Governor's Communication No. 24-21.*

*The motion was seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor's veto, as referenced in Governor's Communication No. 24-21, concerning House Local Bill No. 24-03, D2, entitled, “To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59,” as referenced in Governor's Communication No. 24-21 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	Absent (During Vote)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	No
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	No
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (During Vote)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes

Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	No
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	No
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 12 members voted “yes,” 4 members voted “no,” and 4 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With a vote of 12 “yes” and 4 “no,” that falls short of a two-thirds vote. Therefore, the motion does not carry. Thank you, members. With that, we now move down to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and I recognize the Clerk.

## SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

*The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:*

SEN. COMM. 24-11: (4/28/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 24-03, entitled, “*To recognize and commend Lieutenant Colonel Adrian “Savage” Evangelista, United States Marine Corps for his selfless service answering the call to defend and protect our nation and play a fundamental role in the armed forces of the United States of America.*”. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-12: (4/28/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-01, entitled, “*To recognize and commend the Saipan Eagle Lions Club and the Saipan Beacon Lions Club for their outstanding achievements in membership growth and retention.*”. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-13: (4/25/2025) Transmitting for House action **S. B. NO. 24-09**, entitled, “*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Captive Insurance Act of 2025; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on April 25 2025. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 24-14: (4/25/2025) Transmitting for House action **S. B. NO. 24-18, SD1**, entitled, “*To amend 1 CMC § 2803 regarding the budget submission of the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on April 25, 2025. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 24-15: (4/25/2025) Transmitting for House action **S. B. NO. 24-22**, entitled, “*To establish mandatory presentation of valid personal photo identification for any debit card or credit card transaction made in person and any check cash exchange or purchase for all business establishments in the Commonwealth.*”, which was passed by the Senate on April 25, 2025. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 24-16: (4/25/2025) Transmitting for House action **S. B. NO. 24-32, SD1**, entitled, “*To amend 2 CMC § 3551 to change the expenditure authority, management, and control of the solid waste sub-accounts for the First and*

***Second Senatorial Districts; and for other purposes.***”, which was passed by the Senate on April 25, 2025. [***For action***]

SEN. COMM. 24-17: (5/12/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-20, entitled, “***To require conspicuous warning labels be placed on all betel nut products and containers that are imported or sold in the CNMI.***”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on May 9, 2025. [***For info-Will go to Governor***]

SEN. COMM. 24-18: (5/12/2025) Informing the House that the Senate overrode the Governor’s veto of S. L. B. NO. 24-01, D1 (***To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes.***) on May 9, 2025. [***For info***]

SEN. COMM. 24-19: (5/12/2025) Informing the House that the Senate during its 1st Day, Second Special Session rejected the House amendments to S. J. R. NO. 24-02, HD1, entitled, “***To call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the Governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address.***”. [***For Info***]

SEN. COMM. 24-20: (5/12/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-17, entitled, “***To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances.***”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on May 9, 2025, in the form of ***H. B. No. 24- 17, SD1.*** [***For action on Senate amendments***]

SEN. COMM. 24-21: (5/12/2025) Transmitting for House action ***S. J. R. NO. 24-03***, entitled, “***To support the passage of H.R. 2132, which aims to reestablish eligibility for NMI Airports to participate in the Essential Air Service.***”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2025. [***For action***]

SEN. COMM. 24-22: (5/12/2025) Transmitting for House action ***S. J. R. NO. 24-04***, entitled, “***To call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the Governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address.***”, which was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2025. [***For action***]

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communication No. 24-11 through 24-22.*

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to accept Senate Communications No. 24-11 through 24-22 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*Pursuant to the actions taken, Senate Communications No. 24-13, referencing, S. B. NO. 24-09, entitled “Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Captive Insurance Act of 2025; and for other purposes,”, was placed on the Bill Calendar; Senate Communication No.*

24-14, referencing S. B. No. 24-18, SD1, entitled “To amend 1 CMC § 2803 regarding the budget submission of the Department of Public Lands; and for the other purposes.”, was referred to the House Committees on Natural Resources and, Ways and Means; Senate Communication No. 24-15, referencing, S. B. No. 24-22, entitled “To establish mandatory presentation of valid personal photo identification for any debit card or credit card transaction made in person and any check cash exchange or purchase for all business establishments in the Commonwealth.”, was referred to the House Committee on Commerce; Senate Communications No. 24-16, referencing, S. B. No. 24-32, SD1, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC § 3551 to change the expenditure authority, management, and control of the solid waste sub-accounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts; and for other purposes.”, was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and, Natural Resources; Senate Communication No. 24-20, referencing, H. B. No. 24-17, entitled, “To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances.”, was placed on the Bill Calendar; Senate Communication No. 24-21, referencing, S. J. R. No. 24-03, entitled, “To support the passage of H.R. 2132, which aims to reestablish eligibility for NMI Airports to participate in the Essential Air Service.”, was placed on the Resolution Calendar; and Senate Communication No. 24-22, referencing, S. J. R. No. 24-04, entitled, “To call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the Governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address.”, was placed on the Resolution Committee.

*There being no further under Senate Communications, the Chair moved down to Item No. 8, House Communications, and recognized the Clerk.*

## HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

*The Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 24-29: (5/1/2025) From Representative Thomas John DLC. Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning May 9, 2025—May 17, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-30: (4/23/2025) From Representative Julie M. A. Ogo informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning April 28, 2025—May 2, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-31: (5/7/2025) From Representative Joseph A. Flores informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from May 8, 2025 to May 16, 2025 and requests to be excused from all scheduled meetings or sessions. [*For info*]

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.*

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Mr. Speaker, my apologies. If there is no objection from the members, can we go back to Senate Communications?

*There being no objections on the floor, the Chair moved back to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.*

### SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senate Communication No. 24-21, you sent that to Resolution Calendar?

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Yes. It is a Senate Joint Resolution.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Yes. The Senate Joint Resolution that is coming out of the Federal and Foreign Committee, I do not know the exact standing committee report number. But Standing Committee Report No. 24-7 actually addresses that specific issue inclusive of the annex 6.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Okay. We will go ahead and refer this to your committee.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Yes, okay. It should be addressed already on the joint, I mean, the Standing Committee Report No. 24-7. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Attao. I apologize. Clerk, can we go back to Senate Communication No. 24-21 and refer it to the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs. Thank you. We move back down to House Communications.

SEN. COMM. 24-21: (5/12/2025) Transmitting for House action **S. J. R. NO. 24-03**, entitled, **“To support the passage of H.R. 2132, which aims to reestablish eligibility for NMI Airports to participate in the Essential Air Service.”**, which was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2025. [**For action**]-The Chair referred to House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs.

### HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

HSE. COMM. 24-29: (5/1/2025) From Representative Thomas John DLC. Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning May 9, 2025—May 17, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-30: (4/23/2025) From Representative Julie M. A. Ogo informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning April 28, 2025—May 2, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [*For info*]



HSE. COMM. 24-31: (5/7/2025) From Representative Joseph A. Flores informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from May 8, 2025 to May 16, 2025 and requests to be excused from all scheduled meetings or sessions. [*For info*]

*There Chair opened the floor for discussion and there was no discussion raised; the Chair moved to the next item.*

*There being no item listed under Item No. 9, Communications from the Judicial Branch, the Chair moved down to Item No. 10, Communications from the Departments & Agencies, and recognized the Clerk.*

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

None

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

*The Clerk announced the following Communication from the Departments & Agencies:*

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-8: (4/30/2025) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) submitting *FY 2025—Second Quarter Financial Report ending March 31, 2025*. [*For info*]

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and recognized the Clerk.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:*

MISC. COMM. 24-32: (4/28/2025) From the Chair, Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) to the Acting Secretary of the Department of Public Lands (DPL) re: *DPL Expenditures related to Managaha Island including expenditures for DPL Managaha Boat (\$250,000); Managaha Staff/Rangers and Managaha Island maintenance expenses./Open Government Act request for Public Records 1 CMC §9901 et. seq.*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 24-33: (4/30/2025) From the Acting Chair, Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) re: *submitting CPUC's 2026 Budget Submission*. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 24-34: (4/21/2025) From the Saipan Humane Society re: *Governor's veto on H. L. B. NO. 24-3, D2, as it pertains to the Saipan Humane Society funding allocation*. [*For info*]



*The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 12, Reports of Standing Committees, and recognized the Clerk.*

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

*The Clerk announced the following Reports of Standing Committees:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-1:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-2, entitled: “To establish a process for the delivery of a State of the Commonwealth Address to the Legislature by the Governor.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-2** in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-2:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-14, entitled: “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.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-14** in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-3:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-15, entitled: “To establish public sector employee and public sector employer relations through organized labor within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-15** in its current form.*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-4:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-1, entitled: “To amend provisions in Title 6, Chapter 3, Sexual Offenses, Article 1. General Provisions, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-1, HSI.***

**S. C. R. NO. 24-5:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-19, entitled: “To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-19.***

**S. C. R. NO. 24-6:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-25, entitled: “To establish mandatory consecutive sentencing for repeat felony offenders on probation or parole, and to ensure consistent application of sentencing laws.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-25.***

**S. C. R. NO. 24-7:** Reporting on S. J. R. No. 24-1, entitled: “Supporting the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s request for exemption from Federal Limitations on Scheduled Chinese Air Service to the CNMI and for the Reinstatement of Annex VI under the US Department of State’s “US-China Air Transport Agreement of

2007.” *Your House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs recommends that the House pass in the form of **S. J. R. No. 24-1, HD1.***

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-1:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-2, entitled: “To establish a process for the delivery of a State of the Commonwealth Address to the Legislature by the Governor.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-1 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-2:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-14, entitled: “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.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-3:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-15, entitled: “To establish public sector employee and public sector employer relations through organized labor within the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-3 was carried by voice vote. There was one “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-4:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-1, entitled: “To amend provisions in Title 6, Chapter 3, Sexual Offenses, Article 1. General Provisions, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.*

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the interest of time, I know that we have the coalition here along with Counsel Hines. May I recommend, if there is no objection, that we place this under our first order of business under Bill Calendar?

*Members of the House voiced “no objection.”*

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*There being no further discussions on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-4 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-5:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-19, entitled: “To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.””

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-5 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-6:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-25, entitled: “To establish mandatory consecutive sentencing for repeat felony offenders on probation or parole, and to ensure consistent application of sentencing laws.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-6 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-7:** Reporting on S. J. R. No. 24-1, entitled: “Supporting the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s request for exemption from Federal Limitations on Scheduled Chinese Air Service to the CNMI and for the Reinstatement of Annex

VI under the US Department of State's "US-China Air Transport Agreement of 2007."

*The motion was duly seconded; and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-7 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*There being nothing further under Reports of Standing Committees, the Chair moved down to Item 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees.*

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

*There were no items under Item 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and Item 14, Unfinished Business, and the Chair moved down to Item 15, Resolution Calendar.*

## **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 5:20 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 5:29 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Villagomez Sablan: We now rise back to session. Before we went on recess, we were under the Resolution Calendar, but I would like to move to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, and go directly under House Bill No. 24-1. I recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. 24-1:*

**H. B. No. 24-1, HS1:** To amend provisions in Title 6, Chapter 3, Sexual Offenses, Article 1. General Provisions, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H.B. 24-1, HS1, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-1, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

## **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of C. Res. No. 24-3:*

**C. RES. NO. 24-3:** To honor Alleena Villaluz for her exceptional achievements in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, academics, and extracurricular activities, and to celebrate her unwavering dedication and exemplary contributions as a role model for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt C. Res. No. 24-3 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. J. Res. No. 24-04:*

**S. J. Res. No. 24-04:** To call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the Governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address.

*There motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt S. J. Res. No. 24-04 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members preset voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 15 members present voting “yes,” Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-04 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. J. Res. No. 24-1, HD1:*

**S. J. Res. No. 24-1, HD1:** Supporting the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s request for exemption from Federal Limitations on Scheduled Chinese Air Service to the CNMI, urging the Reinstatement of Annex VI under the U.S.-China Air Transport Agreement of 2007, and urging the full and immediate implementation of the CNMI Economic Vitality and Security Travel Authority Program (EVS-TAP).

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*



*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt S. J. Res. No. 24-1, HD1 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members present voting “yes,” Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-1, House Draft 1 is hereby adopted. We now move back to the Bill Calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-2:*

**H. B. NO. 24-2:** To establish a process for the delivery of a State of the Commonwealth Address to the Legislature by the Governor.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-2, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-2 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-14:*

**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.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-14, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)

Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-14 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-15:*

**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.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-15, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	No
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 14 members voted “yes,” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 14 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-15 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-19:*

**H. B. NO. 24-19:** To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office.”

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-19, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 15 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-9 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-25:*

**H. B. NO. 24-25:** To establish mandatory consecutive sentencing for repeat felony offenders on probation or parole, and to ensure consistent application of sentencing laws.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-25, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 15 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-25 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-29:*

**H. B. NO. 24-29:** To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intra-governmental penalties and preserving enforceable debt obligations; and for other purposes.

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 5:42 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 5:42 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were on the Bill Calendar under House Bill No. 24-29 and I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

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

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

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-29:*

**H. B. NO. 24-29:** To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intra-governmental penalties and preserving enforceable debt obligations; and for other purposes.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage H. B. No. 24-29, on First and Final Reading, 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	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)



Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 15 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 15 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-29 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

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

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion 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 on First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-09:*

**S. B. NO. 24-09:** Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Captive Insurance Act of 2025; and for other purposes.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of S. B. No. 24-09, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 13 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 13 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill No. 24-09 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

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

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 5:47 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 5:48 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under House Bill No. 24-17, SD1. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved to reject the Senate amendments to H. B. No. 24-17, SD1 and referred the bill to conference committee.*

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussions.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: For clarification, if you vote “yes,” that means you vote for the rejection. If you vote “no,” you do not vote for the rejection. I recognize the Clerk to call the roll.

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to reject the Senate amendments to H. B. No. 24-17, SD1 with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes

Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	No
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Voting)

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted “yes,” and 1 member voted “no.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-17, SD1 is hereby rejected. I will appoint a conference committee on the House side at a later date. A memorandum will be forthcoming. Thank you, colleagues. With nothing further under the Bill Calendar, we will now move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 18, Announcements.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion 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 5:50 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Brenalyn T. Santos  
House Journal Clerk

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## APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

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### *Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on April 24, 2025:*

H. B. NO. 24-19: To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office”. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 and REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*, Representative Ralph N. Yumul) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Education and to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-20: To require conspicuous warning labels be placed on all betel nut products and containers that are imported or sold in the CNMI. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 24, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar. [*Public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 4/24/2025*]

H. B. NO. 24-21: To establish the Joint Oversight of Incoming Non-local Transfers Act to mandate Legislative and Executive Appropriation for all Non-Locally-Sourced Funds allocated for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on April 24, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 24-22: To repeal and reenact the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-23: To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-24: To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. [*Public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 4/24/2025*]

H. B. NO. 24-25: To establish mandatory consecutive sentencing for repeat felony offenders on probation or parole, and to ensure consistent application of sentencing laws. Introduced by REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Marissa R. Flores; Roy C.A. Ada, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, and Elias J.M. Rangamar) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-26: To amend the crime of child abuse. Introduced by REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-27: To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/*afok*/or *bweesch*. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3, REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4, and REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for themselves*) on April 24, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and to the House Committee on Health and Welfare. . [*Public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 4/24/2025*]

H. L. B. NO. 24-7: To appropriate Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000.00) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on April 24, 2025.

H. L. B. NO. 24-8: To appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$85,500.00 under Saipan Local Law 23-04 for the repair, maintenance and improvements of recreational facilities 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 April 24, 2025.

H. RES. NO. 24-7: To honor the 55 years of exemplary service rendered by Peace Corps Volunteers to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend a warm and respectful welcome to those returning to the islands that they once called home. Introduced by REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez; Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on April 24, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

