



HOUSE JOURNAL

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2025

2nd Day, Third Special Session
Friday, June 20, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Third Special Session on Friday, June 20, 2025, at 3:10 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (Excused)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Absent (Excused)
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Absent (Excused)
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Present
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, 16 members are present and 4 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 16 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Vincent Aldan, Roman Benavente, Diego Camacho, and Joel Camacho are excused for today's session. Before we move

to Item No. 2, Public Comments, I would like to call for recess for the resolution presentation in memory of the late Dr. Doyle.

The House recessed at 3:13 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 3:25 p.m.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

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

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 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 one individual on the following items:

S. B. No. 24-16, SD1: To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes.

S. B. No. 24-17, SD1: To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename "Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority" to "Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority"; and for other purposes.

There being no further public comments presented and no items under Item No. 3, Adoption of Journals, the Chair moved down to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada under House Bills.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

None

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

House Bills:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada formally introduced the following bill which was then referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means:

H. B. NO. 24-32: To establish a tax on transient accommodations and to regulate the operation of short-term rentals in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.
Prefiled by: **REP. ROY C. A. ADA** of Saipan, Precinct 1 and **REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for themselves*, Representative Daniel I. Aquino and Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao) on June 18, 2025.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul formally introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente:

H. B. NO. 24-33: To statutorily define the scope of the Commonwealth's annual General Revenues within the meaning of Article XV, Section 1(e) of the NMI Constitution. **Prefiled by REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita K. Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on June 20, 2025.

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

House Local Bills:

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. NO. 24-17: To amend 10 CMC § 12114 to provide for the compensation of the members of the Rota Casino Commission. **Prefiled by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on June 18, 2025.

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

There being no further introductions on the floor and no items under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair moved down to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and recognized Representatives Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona under House Resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona formally introduced the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 24-9: To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Latte Built 24hr Fitness and to recognize Derek Cutting's outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands community, while also acknowledging the positive impact of local businesses on our island's growth and resilience. **Prefiled by: REP. THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A.

Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on June 11, 2025.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo formally introduced the following resolution, and there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

There being no objection on the floor, the resolution was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

H. RES. NO. 24-10: To recognize the outstanding managerial and leadership contributions of Gloria Cavanagh in her services to the hospitality and business industry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct *(for herself)* on June 13, 2025.

There being no further introductions under House Resolutions and no items under House Joint Resolutions, the Chair moved down to House Commemorative Resolutions and recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

There being no objection on the floor, the resolution was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

C. RES. NO. 24-4: To commemorate the life, legacy, and dedicated service of the late Dr. John Lamphear Doyle III, for his exceptional contributions to medicine and his profound impact on the well-being of the people of the CNMI, and to extend sincere condolences to his bereaved family. **Prefiled by: REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR**, of Saipan, Precinct 4 *(for himself)*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino, Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julia M. A. Ogo, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J. M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on June 18, 2025.

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

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-28: (06/12/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. No. 24-09, (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Captive Insurance Act of 2025; and for other purposes.). Became **Public Law No. 24-03**.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor and no item under Item No. 7, Senate Communications, the Chair moved down to Item No. 8, House Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 24-35: (06/09/2025) From Representative Joel C. Camacho informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave from June 13, 2025 to June 23, 2025 and request to be excused from all official functions. [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor and no items 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 Communications from the Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-9: (06/12/2025) From the Chairman, Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) submitting Re: *Executive Order 2025-002*. [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. 24-40: (06/04/2025) From Karidat, Catholic Charities-Diocese of Chalan Kanoa re: *Update Hold on FY24 Violence Against Women/Sexual Assault Services Funds*

MISC. COMM. 24-41: (06/11/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of RLD Resolution No. 24-01, entitled, *"To honor and commemorate the life and legacy of the late Oscar Mendiola, a proud son of Rota, whose service, contributions, and enduring love for his people and homeland left a profound impact on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and beyond."* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-42: (06/13/2025) From URAALI Refaluwasch Association Resolution No. 2025-0001, entitled: *"Respectfully opposing any federal military designation of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as a U.S. Air Force air mobility command gateway without full consultation, legal transparency, and protection of Indigenous and Environmental Rights."* [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just going through this miscellaneous communication, and there is a sense of urgency by the agency requesting for some kind of clarity or response for the Secretary of Finance. For the record, and if someone from, maybe the Chairman of Ways and Means, if you can double check with them. There are some funds being held up.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may ask the Floor Leader, which miscellaneous communication is she referring to that we need to check for balances of funds?

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: My apologies, Chairman. I am referring to Miscellaneous Communication No. 24-40.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: They are duly noted, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

There being no further 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. 24-8: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-4, entitled: "To amend the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 by refining eligibility criteria for Qualifying Certificates, strengthening procedural safeguards, mandating detailed reporting on investments and performance, and enhancing oversight mechanisms." *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-4, HD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-9: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-15, SD1, entitled: "To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24- 15, SD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-10: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-16, SD1, entitled: "To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24-16, SD1.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-11: Reports on S. B. No. 24-17, SD1, entitled: "To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename "Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority" to "Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority"; and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24-17, SD1.*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-8 through S. C. R. No. 24-11.

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 3:40 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 3:41 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: We rise back to session. Before we went on recess, the Floor Leader was about to clear the reports of standing committees with one shot. But we need to go through the proper protocols. With that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-8.

S. C. R. NO. 24-8: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-4, entitled: “To amend the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 by refining eligibility criteria for Qualifying Certificates, strengthening procedural safeguards, mandating detailed reporting on investments and performance, and enhancing oversight mechanisms.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-4, HD1.*

The motion was duly seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for the information of the members, this morning I did notice an error under the committee findings under Standing Committee Report No. 24-8. That has been corrected and submitted to the House Clerk. Just for everyone’s information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Is that an offer to amend the committee report?

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Yes.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Do we all have a copy, members? Can you explain the corrections, Chairman?

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Yes. It was just an oversight mistake. They included findings from a completely separate bill. So, they needed to put the correct committee findings. Which was made earlier today.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you. Chairman, so, in no way does the amendments change the intent nor the title of the proposed standing committee report? Thank you.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: It actually clarifies it.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: I would like to recognize the legal counsel. Does Chairman Manglona need to introduce this or move for an amendment to the committee report or can this be treated like a technical?

Counsel Joseph Taijeron: We can treat it as a technical. But I would prefer the vote on the technical amendment, if that is not too much trouble. So, a roll call will not be necessary.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: A voice vote?

Counsel Joseph Taijeron: Yes.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you. Representative Manglona, can you offer that as an amendment to the committee report? We will take a quick recess.

The House recessed at 3:43 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 3:51 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: We rise back from recess. Before we went into recess, we were under discussion of Standing Committee Report No. 24-8, and I recognize Representative Thomas John Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I offer a motion to update the committee findings on Standing Committee Report No. 24-8 to the correct committee findings based on a technical error.

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to update the committee findings was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair proceeded to the main motion for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-8.

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-8 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 3:52 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 3:53 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we just adopted Standing Committee Report No. 24-8, as amended. Now we will go ahead and proceed to the next committee report. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-9.

S. C. R. NO. 24-9: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-15, SD1, entitled: “To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24- 15, SD1.*

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-9 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-10.

S. C. R. NO. 24-10: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-16, SD1, entitled: “To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24-16, SD1.*

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. C. R. No. 24-11.

S. C. R. NO. 24-11: Reports on S. B. No. 24-17, SD1, entitled: “To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename “Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority” to “Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority”; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of S. B. NO. 24-17, SD1.*

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-11 was carried by voice vote. There was “nay” vote.

With nothing further under Reports of Standing Committees, the Chair moved down to Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and recognized the Clerk.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced the following Reports of Special and Conference Committees.

C. C. R. NO. 24-1: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-17, SD1 entitled: "To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances." *Your Conference Committee recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-17, SD1, CCS1.*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of C. C. R. No. 24-1.

C. C. R. NO. 24-1: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-17, SD1 entitled: "To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances." *Your Conference Committee recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-17, SD1, CCS1.*

The motion was duly seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao.

Representatives John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the Conference Committee Report No. 24-1, your conference committee team, which encompasses myself, Representative Blas Jonathan Attao, Representative Vincent Aldan, and Representative Joel Camacho, had met with our counterparts' conferees from the Senate. Just a brief history for the members and for the viewing public, since the inception of this bill itself that was offered to this august body by yourself, Mr. Speaker, when it reaches the Senate with the Senate amendments, that version had three main changes. The first change we agreed upon was deleting the word "airport" in all subsequent subsections within both versions. The second amendment that we did was put clarification on Section C, which the Senate version text talks about employees at "40 hours per week." What your committee had done with the Senate committee was put the text regular full-time hours so that we can entertain staff from CPA (Commonwealth Ports Authority), such as the ARFF (Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting) section, where normally their regular work hours are not actually 80. They start at 96, and anything beyond that is considered overtime. We also put what you see in Item D on the Senate version; we repeatedly insert it in Section 3. So that there is continuity in how the CPA can conduct this usage of funds, they first tackle whatever is necessary with the existing bonds that need to be paid before they can unilaterally use these funds to help the airport operations. So, with that, if there are any questions from the members on this work that both comfrees have agreed upon, we stand ready to answer your questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to what our Chairman for your conferees had mentioned the language of reappropriation, or the reprogramming of funds, we changed that language to transfer of funds so that they do not directly obligate the funds so that they can go back down to the seaport. We would like to thank our Senate counterparts for their time and their understanding when we deliberate on the issue regarding the CPA needs. We are also very fortunate that the Chairman of the board and their controller were part of the conference committee as we broke into the Committee of the Whole. They were able

to explain why those changes were needed or why the original version was really the version they were hoping was going to pass the Senate. But the Senate, credit to their credit, also included language that actually would assist CPA down the road in making sure that when they do transfer funds from the Seaport to the Airport, they do address the obligations, the bond obligations, and all the insurance obligations prior to touching the man-hours. Because we all wanted the man-hours to be the priority. Unfortunately, without addressing the mandates from the FAA, they would never be able to get the man-hours. So, we were able to address that with the language that we agreed to during the conference committee to allow CPA to work with their vendors through additional funds that they will be moving up from the Seaport. Work with their vendors, as well as the bonding agencies. So that they can free up some funds and get their employees up to full-time work hours. CPA, as we know, they have actually been on austerity for almost three and a half years. Maybe going on four years. So, this would actually assist them in getting back into their full work hours and hopefully help them with their buying power that would trickle down to our economy here in the Commonwealth. So, any questions from the members? If you have any questions, we stand ready to answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing us to represent the House as your conference committee. Thank you.

With no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-1, with the following results:

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 members present voting “yes,” Conference Committee Report No. 24-1 is hereby adopted. Thank you, colleagues. We now move down to Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, we have none. We now move down to the Resolution Calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. J. R. No. 24-2:

H. J. R. NO. 24-2: To formally recognize and commemorate the National Conference of State Legislatures on its 50th anniversary.

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 H. J. R. No. 24-2 with the following results:

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 members present voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution No. 24-2 is hereby adopted. I recognized the Floor Leader. A quick recess.

The House recessed at 4:05 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 4:07 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were still under the Resolution Calendar, we just adopted House Joint Resolution No. 24-2. And with that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. Res. No. 24-9.

H. RES. NO. 24-9: To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Latte Built 24hr Fitness and to recognize Derek Cutting's outstanding contributions to the health and well-being of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands community, while also acknowledging the positive impact of local businesses on our island's growth and resilience.

The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-9 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. Res. No. 24-10.

H. RES. NO. 24-10: To recognize the outstanding managerial and leadership contributions of Gloria Cavanagh in her services to the hospitality and business industry in 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 H. Res. No. 24-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being no further under the Resolution Calendar, the Chair moved down to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of the First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-4, HD1.

H. B. No. 24-4, HD1: To amend the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 by refining eligibility criteria for Qualifying Certificates, strengthening procedural safeguards, mandating detailed reporting on investments and performance, and enhancing oversight mechanisms.

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. 24-4, HD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 16 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-4, House Draft 1 passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-15, SD1.

S. B. No. 24-15, SD1: To amend 4 CMC § 4266 to add a filing number to incorporation filings; to amend 4 CMC § 4269 to create an internet portal for public search of corporate existence by filing number; 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. 24-15, SD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 16 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill No. 24-15, SD1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-16, SD1.

S. B. No. 24-16, SD1: To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; 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. 24-16, SD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Absent (Excused)

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 16 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill No. 24-16, SD1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-17, SD1.

S. B. No. 24-17, SD1: To globally amend Divisions 1 and 5 of Title 4 to rename "Commonwealth Free Trade Zone Authority" to "Commonwealth Economic Incentive District Authority"; 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. 24-17, SD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (Excused)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Absent (Excused)
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Absent (Excused)
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes

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

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 16 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 16 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill No. 24-17, SD1 hereby passes the House. That takes care of our Bill Calendar. We now move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Businesses, and the floor is open. I recognize Representative Thomas John Manglona.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take this time to thank the members on the committee of Commerce, as well as all of you, my colleagues here, for acting swiftly on those pieces of legislation. I know these will go a long way in helping develop our economy. Especially our digital economy and also helping with foreign and domestic investment. So, thank you all, again, for your support.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with Chairman Manglona, you know, we hope with all of these changes that the Division of Commerce stands ready when we call and say, “Can we get an update, sir?” It should not be that hard. It should be at the press of a button, I think. We are hopeful, and this body has given the Commerce Agency somewhat of a new way, or not a new way, but an improved way to collect data. And to make it easier for outside businesses and investments to open up in the Commonwealth and in the Marianas. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield my time.

The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to extend our appreciation to the, my apologies, to the members of the delegation, our Chairman of the delegation, that I was not able to extend our appreciation to the members for voting on House Local Law No. 24-12 that got the money out to the SHEFA (Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance) program, the athletes that are going to the Pacifica Mini Games, and all the other entities that will be receiving funds from that appropriation. I just want to extend my appreciation to the members for their vote of confidence in getting that legislation out. And in closing, I know

that our House Clerk is not with us today. She and her family are going through some tough times right now. They lost a family member. So, I would like to extend our condolences, Mr. Speaker, to our Clerk and her family for their loss. With that being said, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to congratulate the Kanoa Football Club for winning the U12 Pacific Grassroots Football Festival held in Guam. Over 9 teams from the CNMI attended the tournament over in Guam, and a total of 24 teams competed for the second annual tournament. I would also like to thank Jerry Tan for his huge contribution to the teams that went over to Guam to compete. And we got one of the two divisions, so congratulations to everyone and the coaches, as well as the parents that attended. That will be all. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just one, in light of Representative Yumul. I just want to congratulate the Saipan Little League Program on them just recently passing the Senior League All-Star Division. Unfortunately, we did not advance to the World Series, but it is a good comeback after 7 years. And thank you to our District Administrator, Mr. J. Merrick, and the President Secretary, Ray Yumul, and the Board Members for setting this whole league together. And this week, we have our Junior and Little League All-Stars that will be traveling to Korea. And, yes, thank you to everybody for the funding source. That is going to make it possible for their trip to compete in the All-Star League. We just wish them well, and we wish the program to continue, and we wish them the best. Thank you.

There being no further discussions on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people down at the carnival grounds are in need of your wallets. So, please visit them this weekend. Thank you.

There being no further 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 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

[Added-6/11/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-14: To impose a 0.5% ad valorem local excise surtax for the privilege of importing construction materials from outside and within the Commonwealth by licensed construction contractors into the First Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on June 11, 2025.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

[Added-5/15/2025] 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. Introduced by Rep. Joseph A. Flores of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on May 15, 2025.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on June 11, 2025:

[Added-6/11/2025] H. B. NO. 24-30: To appropriate funds from Accounts 1501B and 1501S to support the operational and personnel needs of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and to direct the Secretary of Finance to establish and maintain a separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account for the purpose of segregating and reserving PSS’s designated share. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on June 11, 2025.

[Added-6/11/2025] H. B. NO. 24-31: To repeal restrictions on the use of funds in accounts established under 4 CMC §§ 1215 and 53036(g). Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on June 11, 2025.

H. L. B. NO. 24-12: To appropriate \$2,500,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joel C. Camacho, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on June 11, 2025.

[Added-6/11/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-13: To amend 10 CMC § 12114 to provide for the compensation of the members of the Rota Casino Commission. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on June 11, 2025.

[Added-6/11/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-14: To impose a 0.5% ad valorem local excise surtax for the privilege of importing construction materials from outside and within the Commonwealth by licensed construction contractors into the First Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on June 11, 2025.

[Added-6/11/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-15: To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

[Added-6/11/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-16: To re-appropriate Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 20-26 and re-appropriate Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 23-10; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN and REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for themselves*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

[Added-6/11/2025] H. J. R. NO. 24-2: To formally recognize and commemorate the National Conference of State Legislatures on its 50th anniversary. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on June 11, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.



Trade Council of the Marianas

Attn: Vin Armani
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20 JUNE 2025

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Mister Speaker and Honorable Representatives,

My name is Vin Armani. I am the President of the Trade Council of the Marianas. Today I am honored to have the opportunity to give public comment to this distinguished body to urge the immediate passage of SB 24-16, the Foreign Corporation Liaison Act and SB 24-17, the Economic Incentive District Renaming Act. Both of these bills come before you today with a recommendation for passage by the House Commerce Committee.

The economic crisis we are experiencing in the Commonwealth deepens, with no signs of abating. The Marianas Variety's top story today is that visitor arrivals are down 36% year-over-year. We no longer have the luxury of not throwing every resource we have at economic diversification. Every stakeholder who has been pursuing the goal of economic diversification over the past years can attest to the fact that it is technology companies, participating in the digital economy, that are the "lowest hanging fruit" to attract to CNMI. The two bills I come before you to support today are crucial to our being able to harvest new industries to feed the people of the Commonwealth.

SB 24-17 the Economic Incentive District Renaming Act represents an important step toward properly branding CNMI as a destination for highly profitable businesses with a low environmental footprint. It renames Free Trade Zones and the Free Trade Zone Authority to Economic Incentive Districts and the Economic Incentive District Authority, respectively. The renaming is a modernized branding that better fits with the original intent of the Free Trade Zone Act of 2000, which says in its Finding and Purpose that "illustrative examples of [...] desirable business activities would be: production of computer hardware and software, licensing and distribution of intellectual property, computer programming services, database storage and retrieval, [and] financial and trade related services." The Trade Council urges immediate passage of SB 24-17, and passage of local bills in the three legislative delegations, pursuant to The Free Trade Zone Act of 2000, to designate key areas as Economic Incentive Districts. I also urge members of this body to please encourage the Governor to resubmit his nominees for the Economic Incentive District Authority for confirmation by the Senate.

SB 24-16 addresses a major issue that it seems no one is talking about. Within the CNMI Government, there is *no single individual* whose primary job description is attracting and retaining businesses, currently located outside of the Commonwealth, that could be incentivized to relocate.

While Public Law 22-1 gave CEDA the authority to promote and encourage foreign investment, it did not give it a mandate to do so. In other words, CEDA *can* act to support economic diversification, but there is no law stating it *must* or specifying what that responsibility consists of. SB 24-16 addresses this important economic blindspot by establishing a position, the Office of the Foreign Corporation Liaison, within the executive branch, with the sole mandate of removing as much friction (almost all of which is currently within the executive branch) as possible from the process of attracting new taxpayers, new revenue for our CNMI government, and new private-sector employment for our people.. This is not duplicative of the efforts of CEDA, rather it enhances those efforts in significant, pragmatic ways. The Trade Council urges immediate passage of this bill and urges this body to appropriate significant funds so that global experts in this field, with proven track records, can be brought in to staff this office. This is the Commonwealth's salesforce, so get the best there is.

These bills were introduced over five months ago and have now moved through both the Senate and House, including receiving hearings in committee. The time to act is now. I thank you for your immediate passage of these bills and your support of the future economic prosperity of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,



Vin Armani

President - Trade Council of the Marianas