HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES • TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE • COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



# **HOUSE JOURNAL**FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2025

1st Day, Fifth Special Session

Thursday, July 31, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Fifth Special Session on Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 10:31 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

# **ROLL CALL**

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

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Present
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, 18 members are present and 2 members are absent.

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With 18 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Thomas Manglona and Raymond Palacios are excused for today's session. Before we go down to Item No. 2, Public Comments, I recognize the Floor Leader for the suspension of rules to amend today's agenda.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada

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:

Yes

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	1 68
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 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**

There being no public comment presented, the Chair moved down to Item No. 3, Adoption of Journals, and recognized the Clerk.

# ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following House Journals:

First Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 11, 2025 Second Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 20, 2025

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of First Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 11, 2025, and Second Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 20, 2025; the motion was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion and there being none, the motion to adopt First Day, Third Regular Session Journal – June 11, 2025, and Second Day, Third Day Special Session Journal – June 20, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair moved down to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized the Floor Leader under House Bills.

## **INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

#### House Bills:

Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following bill:

H. B. No. 24-40: To amend Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code to clarify the application of business registration, licensing, and tax laws to foreign corporations engaged in land development, infrastructure development, or construction activities in the Commonwealth, including those related to development projects performed under or in connection with contracts, subcontracts, or agreements with the United States. Prefiled by: Rep. Marissa R. Flores of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself)

With no objections on the floor, the Chair recognized the Floor Leader for the motion to place H. B. No. 24-40 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; 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.

The Chair recognized Representative Joseph Arriola Flores.

Representative Joseph Arriola Flores formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

H. B. NO. 24-41: To establish regulations on vehicle window tinting for safety and security in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, and Representative Roy C.A. Ada)

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Education:

H. B. NO. 24-42: To mandate comprehensive, standards-based financial literacy education in all public high schools and middle schools of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); to establish curriculum standards, teacher training support, integration with workforce development programs, and implementation timelines; and for other purposes. Prefiled by: REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Representative Julie Marie Atalia Ogo formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Tourism:

H. B. NO. 24-43: To create new criminal offense for Desecration or Theft of Memorials and Historical Sites. Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for himself)

Representative Joseph Arriola Flores formally introduced the following bill:

H. B. NO. 24-44: To amend 9 CMC §8209 by removing the seven-day grace period for motorists who violate 9 CMC §8203 and 8204 with the citation effective

immediately; and for other purposes. **Introduced by: REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Elias J. M. Rangamar, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

There being no further introductions on the floor, the Chair moved down to House Local Bills and recognized Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.

#### House Local Bills:

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas formally introduced the following Bill:

H. L. B. NO. 24-20: To appropriate Forty Two Thousand Dollars (\$42,000.00) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Prefiled by: REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (for himself)

There being no further introductions on the floor, and no items listed under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair moved down to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions.

# House Legislative Initiatives:

None

#### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

#### House Resolutions:

There being no items listed under House Resolutions and no introduction made on the floor, the Chair moved down to House Joint Resolutions and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ: Tenorio Attao.

#### House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

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

H. J. R. NO. 24-3: To urge the United States Congress to require all contractors and subcontractors performing federally funded work in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to register with the CNMI Department of Finance and certify compliance with CNMI tax laws as a condition of receiving federal

payments, to request the U.S. Department of Defense to adopt a CNMI-specific clause in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to institutionalize this requirement, and to affirm the CNMI's right under Section 703(b) of the Covenant to receive federal income tax revenues generated from contract work performed in the Commonwealth. Prefiled by: REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives 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, Thomas J. DlC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Representative Joel Castro Camacho formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

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

H. J. R. NO. 24-4: To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-25-ST69-0001, the Home Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M-25-ST69-0203, the National Housing Trust Fund Grant Application No. F-25-ST69-0203, and the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. E-25-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein; and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed pursuant to those grants. Prefiled by: REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (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, Julie M.A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Representative Edward Joseph Sablan Villagomez formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

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

H. J. R. NO. 24-5: To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Guarn-CNMI ESGR State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 4th

through August 8th, 2025 as "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week". **Prefiled by: REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3, (for himself, and the Committee of the Whole)

Representative Edward Joseph Sablan Villagomez formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.

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

H. J. R. NO. 24-6: Commending the distinguished life and extraordinary contributions of the late Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people and to acknowledge his enduring legacy as a genuine statesman. Prefiled by: REP(S). BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO, EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3; REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for themselves, and the Committee of the Whole)

There being no further introduction on the floor, and no items listed under House Commemorative Resolutions and House Concurrent Resolutions, the Chair moved down to Item No. 6, Governor's Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

#### House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

#### House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

## MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-36: (7/17/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-17, SD1, CCS1, (To amend 2 CMC § 2174 to provide the Commonwealth Ports Authority greater autonomy in managing its finances.). Became Public Law No. 24-04. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-37: (7/21/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24 10, D1, (To appropriate revenues collected for the Second Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59.). Became **Tinian Local Law No. 24-05.** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-38: (7/23/2025) From Acting Governor David M. Apatang, transmitting a public statement regarding the passing of the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The statement reflects on Governor Palacios's decades of public service and leadership, and announces that the CNMI flag shall be flown at halfstaff until further notice in solemn tribute. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-39: (7/22/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.). Became Public Law No. 24-05. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-40: (7/24/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.). Became Public Law No. 24-06. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-41: (7/24/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.). Became **Public Law No. 24-07.** [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and there was none. The Chair moved down to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

Clerk's note: The publicly available feed experienced technical issues during a portion of Senate Communications and a complete outage throughout House Communications, Communications from the Judicial Branch, Communications from Departments & Agencies, Miscellaneous Communications, Reports of Standing Committees, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, Unfinished Business, the Resolution Calendar, and a portion of the Bill Calendar. The following is a summary of those proceedings.

#### SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 24-31: (6/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-02, entitled, "To honor the legacy of fishermen and fisherwomen who have shared their indigenous and traditional knowledge of fishing practices in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the First Annual Fishers Recognition Week.". [For info]

- SEN. COMM. 24-32: (6/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 24-05, entitled, "To recognize and congratulate Stephanie Espartero Diaz for her remarkable educational achievements and for proudly representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in academic science-related programs.". [For info]
- SEN. COMM. 24-33: (6/30/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-01, HD1, entitled, "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 Authorization Program (EVS-TAP)." [For info]
- SEN. COMM. 24-34: (7/14/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-1, HS1, entitled, "To amend provisions in Title 6, Division 1, Part 1, Chapter 3, Sexual Offenses, Article 1. General Provisions, relating to sexual abuse/assault of minors.", which was passed by the Senate without amendments on July 14, 2025. [For info-Will go to Governor]
- SEN. COMM. 24-35: (7/14/2025) Returning 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.", which was passed by the Senate without amendments on July 14, 2025. [For info-Will go to Governor]
- SEN. COMM. 24-36: (7/14/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-19, entitled, "To rename the "CNMI Scholarship Office" to the "CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office."", which was passed by the Senate without amendments on July 14, 2025. [For info-Will go to Governor]
- SEN. COMM. 24-37: (7/14/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-29, entitled, "To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intragovernmental penalties and preserving enforceable debt obligations; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate with amendments on July 14, 2025, in the form of H. B. No. 24-29, SD1. [For action on Senate amendments]
- SEN. COMM. 24-38: (7/14/2025) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-08, entitled, "To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate on July 14, 2025. [For action]
- SEN. COMM. 24-39: (7/14/2025) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-19, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all

residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.", which was passed by the Senate on July 14, 2025. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 24-40: (7/14/2025) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-21, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 2103 to require execution of a Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability by the appropriate parties upon the ownership transfer of a vehicle.", which was passed by the Senate on July 14, 2025. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 24-41: (7/15/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 24-06, entitled, "To disapprove Executive Order 2025-002 to transfer authority for supervision of casino gaming from the Commonwealth Casino Commission to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission pursuant to NMI const. art. III, sec. 15.". [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-42: (7/15/2025) Informing the House that the Senate, by majority vote of the members present, disapproved Executive Order No. 2025-002, entitled: "To transfer the authority for supervision of casino gaming from the Commonwealth Casino Commission (CCC) to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission (CLC)," during its 1st Day, Fourth Special Session, held on July 14, 2025. Attached is adopted Standing Committee Report No. 24-22. [For info]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communication No. 24-31 through 24-42.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion, and there was none.

Pursuant to the action taken, Senate Communication No. 24-37, referencing, House Bill No. 24-29, SD1, entitled, "To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intra-governmental penalties and preserving enforceable debt obligations; and for other purposes.", was placed on the bill calendar; Senate Communication No. 24-38, referencing, Senate Bill No. 24-08, entitled, "To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes.", was placed on the bill calendar; Senate Communication No. 24-39, referencing, Senate Bill No. 24-19, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.", was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means; and Senate Communication No. 24-41, referencing, Senate Resolution No. 24-06, entitled, "To disapprove Executive Order 2025-002 to transfer authority for supervision of casino gaming from the Commonwealth Casino Commission to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission pursuant to NMI const. art. III, sec. 15.", was referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations.

The Chair moved down to Item No. 8, House Communication, and recognized the Clerk.

#### HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 24-40: (7/11/2025) From Representative Daniel I. Aquino Jr., informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters from July 13, 2025—July 19, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-41: (7/15/2025) From Representative Joel C. Camacho informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal business from July 18, 2025 to July 22, 2025 and request to be excused from all official functions meetings or sessions. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-42: (7/17/2025) From Speaker Villagomez to the Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee re: Referral communication — JUD. BR. COMM. 24-3: (7/11/2025) From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro to the Senate President and Speaker of the House submitting: Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct. [Submitted 7/11/2025; Deadline: 9/9/2025]. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-43: (7/14/2025) From Representative Thomas John DLC. Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning July 21, 2025—July 30, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-44: (7/18/2025) From Representative Ralph N. Yumul, Gaming Chair informing the House of the appointment of two additional members to the Gaming Committee: Representative Roman C. Benavente and Representative Marissa R. Flores. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-45: (7/18/2025) From Representative Julie M. A. Ogo informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on medical leave beginning August 4, 2025—August 8, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [For info]

The floor was opened for discussion, and there was none. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 9, Communications from the Judicial Branch, and recognized the Clerk.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

JUD. BR. COMM. 24-3: (7/11/2025) From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro to the Senate President and Speaker of the House submitting: *Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct*. [Submitted 7/11/2025; **Deadline:** 9/9/2025]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and there was none.

Pursuant to the action taken, Judicial Branch Communication No. 24-3, referencing, "From Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro to the Senate President and Speaker of the House submitting: Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct.", was referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations.

The Chair moved down to Item No. 10, Communications from the Departments & Agencies, and recognized the Clerk.

#### COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-13: (7/23/2025) From Sixto K. Igisomar, Secretary of Public Lands, submitting a supplemental notice of seven additional land compensation claims totaling \$1,023,529.64 for longstanding right-of-way takings. Requests appropriation in the FY 2026 land compensation budget. [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and there was none.

Pursuant to the action taken, Dept./Agcy. Comm. No. 24-13, referencing, "From Sixto K. Igisomar, Secretary of Public Lands, submitting a supplemental notice of seven additional land compensation claims totaling \$1,023,529.64 for longstanding right-of-way takings. Requests appropriation in the FY 2026 land compensation budget.", was referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means, and Natural Resources.

There being no item under Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, the Chair moved down to Item No. 12, Reports of Standing Committees, and recognized the Clerk.

#### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced the following Reports of Standing Committees:

- S. C. R. No. 24-13: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-12, entitled: "To promote economic recovery and provide relief to CNMI taxpayers by waiving penalties and interest on unpaid taxes due to financial and socioeconomic hardships; and for other purposes." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-12 in its current form.
- S. C. R. No. 24-14: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-18, entitled: "To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming)

license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-18 in its current form.

- S. C. R. No. 24-15: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-24, entitled: "To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 24-24, HD1.
- S. C. R. No. 24-16: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-27, entitled: "To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/afok/or bweesch." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 24-27, HD1.
- S. C. R. NO. 24-17: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-30, entitled: "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." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-30 in its current form.
- S. C. R. NO. 24-18: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-31, entitled: "To repeal restrictions on the use of funds in accounts established under 4 CMC §§ 1215 and 53036(g)." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-31 in its current form.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. No. 24-13: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-12, entitled: "To promote economic recovery and provide relief to CNMI taxpayers by waiving penalties and interest on unpaid taxes due to financial and socioeconomic hardships; and for other purposes." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-12 in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-13 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. 24-14: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-18, entitled: "To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-18 in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-14 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. 24-15: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-24, entitled: "To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 24-24, HD1.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-15 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. 24-16: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-27, entitled: "To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/afok/or bweesch." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. No. 24-27, HD1.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-16 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. 24-17: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-30, entitled: "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." Your House

Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-30 in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-17 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. 24-18: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-31, entitled: "To repeal restrictions on the use of funds in accounts established under 4 CMC §§ 1215 and 53036(g)." Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-31 in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-18 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

There being no items under Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, the Chair moved down to Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

# RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. J. R. No. 24-3:

H. J. R. NO. 24-3: To urge the United States Congress to require all contractors and subcontractors performing federally funded work in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to register with the CNMI Department of Finance and certify compliance with CNMI tax laws as a condition of receiving federal payments, to request the U.S. Department of Defense to adopt a CNMI-specific clause in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) to institutionalize this requirement, and to affirm the CNMI's right under Section 703(b) of the Covenant to receive federal income tax revenues generated from contract work performed in the Commonwealth.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-3 with the following results:

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

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Joint Resolution No. 24-3 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. J. R. No. 24-4:

H. J. R. NO. 24-4: To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-25-ST69-0001, the Home Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M-25-ST69-0203, the National Housing Trust Fund Grant Application No. F-25-ST69-0203, and the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. E-25-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein; and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed pursuant to those grants

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-4 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada Yes Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan Yes Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr. Yes Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao Yes Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente Yes Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho Yes Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho Yes Representative Joel Castro Camacho Yes Representative Joseph Arriola Flores Yes Representative Marissa Renee Flores Yes Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona Absent (Excused) Yes Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes Absent (Excused) Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios 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 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Joint Resolution No. 24-4 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. J. R. No. 24-5:

H. J. R. NO. 24-5: To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Guam-CNMI ESGR State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 4th through August 8th, 2025 as "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week".

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-5 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

The Chair called for recess.

The *House recessed at 11:01 a.m.* 

#### Recess

The House reconvened at 11:02 a.m.

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Before we were on recess, we were on the roll call and I recognize the Clerk.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt H. J. R. No. 24-5 with the following results:

Representative Joseph Arriola Flores

Representative Marissa Renee Flores

Yes

Yes

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona Absent (Excused)

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios Absent (Excused)

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 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Joint Resolution No. 24-5 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

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

H. J. R. NO. 24-6: Commending the distinguished life and extraordinary contributions of the late Honorable Governor Arnold Indalecio Palacios to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people and to acknowledge his enduring legacy as a genuine statesman.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-6 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 Yes Representative Marissa Renee Flores Yes Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona Absent (Excused) Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Yes Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios Absent (Excused) 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 18 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Joint Resolution No. 24-6 is hereby adopted. Thank you, colleagues. We now move down to the next order of business, the Bill Calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-12:

H. B. No. 24-12: To promote economic recovery and provide relief to CNMI taxpayers by waiving penalties and interest on unpaid taxes due to financial and socioeconomic hardships; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Mr. Speaker, they have to suspend the committee report.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: 24-12?

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: This is not First and Final Reading?

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: No.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Because you said First and Final Reading. I apologize.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Any further discussion under House Bill No. 24-12? I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: I did say First and Final. I apologies, Representative Yumul.

There being no further 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. 24-12 with the following results:

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

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-12 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-18:

**H. B. No. 24-18:** To earmark Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) of Electronic Gaming (E-Gaming) license fees towards the Department of Finance for enforcement purposes.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-18 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
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 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-18 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-24:

H. B. No. 24-24, HD1: To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit.

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 11:08 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 11:08 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under Bill Calendar and the Floor Leader had the floor under House Bill No. 24-24, HD1. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-24, HD1:

H. B. No. 24-24, HD1: To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-24, HDI with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
	1 00
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
-	
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes Yes Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-24, HD1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-27, HD1:

H. B. No. 24-27, HD1: To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/afok/or bweesch.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-27, 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	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Danuacantativa Danita Vainat Vangatmai	**
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-27, HD1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-30:

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.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-30 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
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 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-30 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-31:

H. B. No. 24-31: To repeal restrictions on the use of funds in accounts established under 4 CMC §§ 1215 and 53036(g).

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-31 with the following results:

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

Representative Marissa Renee Flores Yes

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona Absent (Excused)

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios Absent (Excused)

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan
Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul
Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-31 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 seconded; 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 Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-29, SD1:

**H. B. No. 24-29, SD1:** To reconcile public utility accounts between CHCC and CUC by waiving intra-governmental penalties and preserving enforcement debt obligations; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-29, SD1, 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	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes

Representative Joseph Arriola Flores Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores Yes

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona Absent (Excused)

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Yes
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios Absent (Excused)

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan
Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul
Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-29, SD1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no 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 Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-40:

H. B. No. 24-40: To amend Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code to clarify the application of business registration, licensing, and tax laws to foreign corporations engaged in land development, infrastructure development, or construction activities in the Commonwealth, including those related to development projects performed under or in connection with contracts, subcontracts, or agreements with the United States.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-40, 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 Yes Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho Yes Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho Yes Representative Joel Castro Camacho Yes Representative Joseph Arriola Flores Yes Representative Marissa Renee Flores Yes Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona

Absent (Excused)

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo Yes Representative Malcolm Jason Omar Yes

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios Absent (Excused)

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 18 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-40 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no 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 of First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-08:

S. B. No. 24-08: To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; 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. 24-08, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada Yes Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan Yes Representative Daniel Iwashita Aguino Jr. Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes
Yes
Absent (Excused)
Yes
Yes
Absent (Excused)
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted "yes."

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul

<u>Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez:</u> Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting "yes," Senate Bill No. 24-08 hereby passes the House. Thank you, colleagues. That completes our bill calendar. We now move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and I recognize Representative Attao.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are no objections from the members, can we move back to Introduction of House Local Bills?

Members of the House voiced "no objection."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you for that. We will go ahead and move back up to Introduction of House Local Bills, and I recognize Representative Attao.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### House Local Bills:

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. No. 24-21: To appropriate \$2,000,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to assist the Department of Finance

and Commonwealth Economic Development Authority with funding related to the Third Senatorial District.

The Chair moved down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao.

#### MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Clerk is pressed on time so that she could sign off to send the House Joint Resolution No. 24-6 to the Senate for their action this afternoon for the Senate session. But I just want to say a few words regarding the resolution, and I know we are honoring the late governor for his services to the people of the Commonwealth and the legacy that he has over the years. Whether it was ranking through the offices or the Department of Lands and Natural Resources up to his position as an elect member of the Legislature and onto the Executive Branch. But with that being said, and it is nice that we were able to do this as joint resolution. I just wish that we would have been able to adopt something like this while he was still with us. But we cannot forget the people beside him and the people behind him, his wife, First Lady Wella, their children, AG, Nicole, Tiana, and Eric, and their respective families, and the governor's siblings and their respective families, along with his in-laws and their respective families for sharing him with the people of the Commonwealth as he pursued his aspirations in public office and his endeavors in serving our people. So, with that being said, we want to extend our appreciation most especially to his wife, First Lady Wella, his children, AG, Nicole, Tiana, and Erica, and to their respective families for sharing their husband and father with the people of the Commonwealth as he represented us well in this chamber, as he did in the Senate chamber and onto the Executive Branch. So, with that being said, again, Mr. Speaker, we extend our condolences as a member of this body and wish the family well. Our prayers will be with them moving forward as we, I guess, make our way through this difficult time as people of the Commonwealth. And we stand by his family as we continue to pray with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to voice my concern regarding the Governor's Executive Order that none of the minorities were briefed as to the status of that. I understand from the last meeting that we had, the committee report was supposed to come out. So, I am hearing that the time expired already. So to the people of precinct two, it was just a big waste of time. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to apologize to the members of JGO (Judicial and Governmental Operations) and the members of the House. I know that we had a lengthy discussion regarding the Governor's Executive Order and other matters like the Judicial Branch Communications. Unfortunately, I believe that some our LA's (Legislative Assistant) were overwhelmed. And it no was this meant to circumvent the process. I apologize on behalf of the committee myself. I would like to take the blame on that. I should have looked at our

agenda sooner. I did not catch it until later that our Executive Order and other matters, JGO committee meetings or committee reports that were supposed to be on today's agenda for today's session. As you can see from the recording the JGO committee meeting that I did make, we did make motions that these committee reports were to be placed in this session today. And unfortunately, I was not able to or at least were not able to complete it. I would like to apologize, again, to the members. Like I mentioned earlier, in no way was this meant to circumvent the members from voting on the Executive Order. Thank you.

# The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in light of that, I would just like to make one statement. I think it is evident right now that the question now is reverted and I would support the Legislative Bureau's idea of procuring more and hiring more Legislative Assistants and Counsels. As we know, that this is a House of 27, I am sorry, 20 members with many committees that are spread out between 2 legislative assistants and counsel. So, if my voice can even offer a solution to this shortage and the time lapse and all of this stuff, I urge the Legislative Bureau to hire more legislative assistants and more counsels. Because, obviously, it is very different when you look at the Senate. The Senate has 9 members with counsels at their disposal. That is... we have two with only 2 counsels and 3 legislative assistants. I have said it at the last meeting that we are going to, at some point, experience a burnout. They are human. They can only take in so much. And they were trying to burn the midnight oil, and I have to support the legislative assistants and the counsel on this. Because we are short when it comes to counsels and legal assistance. Furthermore, in line with Representative Blas Jonathan Attao, I would like to extend my appreciation to the Department of Defense and the United States government for assisting and help assisting us, the CNMI government in the planning of bringing back our late Governor Arnold I. Palacios from Guam with his family. That was a huge gesture and I want you to know that on behalf of the Commonwealth, we are very appreciative of that. Thank you. Si yu'us ma'asi. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

# The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, APIL (Association of Pacific Island Legislatures) is happening soon, and it is in October 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. We are asking every one of you guys and gals to donate to the gift baskets that we will be giving them. So, there will be about 50 participants. And we are asking if you can get 50 items from the CNMI that we can put in those baskets. Please use some of your subsistence to buy those items, whatever they are. Yes, because this is for all of us. It is for the legislatures of the Pacific Islands. Okay. It is not only for the President. Yes, our Speaker is the President, and we want our gifts to be really extravagant for our visitors. Thank you. I love you all. Thank you.

# The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank all the agencies involved yesterday with the tsunami warning. I believe everybody in the community listened and followed, and there was no incident. Well, of course, the gas station was the only one. Probably

ran out of gas because people were scared. But it was a multiagency that did a good job. I would like to thank everybody that was involved. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to let the viewing public understand the importance of House Bill No. 24-42 with regards to finance education. As we all know, nobody in my whole life as a lifelong learner, have I seen any education program that would benefit our children on financial matters. Especially with today's technology, if used properly, anybody can be an entrepreneur. But in order to do that, they have to understand how finance works, how money works. And it is crazy how the education system has been utilized to turn our population into factory setting. And how is that? Well, by keeping our population ignorant when it comes to finance, you make the population dependent on getting jobs. But by teaching our population to be financially responsible and how to make money work and not just to work for money, you secure your future. You are no longer going to be beholden by just getting a job. Learning how to make your money work for you is one of the best things that you could ever do for your life. And as we have seen how the system can be easily manipulated. A perfect example is our retirement funds. All the people that have contributed to the retirement fund got bamboozled by the government when they did not pay their share and they are, it was never deposited. Next thing you know, who get gets the short end of the stick? It is the people who actually contributed, and they trusted the government to do its part. So, it behooves all of us to ensure that our children are financially literate. So that they can control their life and not be dependent on anybody else. And today's technology can make anybody practically rich and retire- probably if you hit the market right and you invest your money right because you understand how money works, you probably will not have to work for the rest of your life. Just work for yourself. And it is sad to see our people, here in the CNMI, are leaving because they think that there are greener pastures in other places. And maybe so. But what they do not realize is that there is also potential here, in the CNMI, if they are willing and if they understand how to make money. Not just to work for the money, but how to make the money that you make here work for you. And you keep it here. You make it go around here instead of sending it somewhere else or earning it from somewhere else. Like I said, again, technology, this, can make you work anywhere in the world. And that is the reason why I have had this idea all along for quite some time, and I think that with the economy, the way our economic situation is going on right now, it is already high time. It is long overdue and I hate to see our children and our population being bamboozled that they have to go somewhere else to seek greener pastures when it can be done here. Work online if you have to, but you do not have to leave. Thank you.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

<u>Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan:</u> Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to announce and remind the members of the Ways and Means Committee that we will continue deliberating at 01:30 this afternoon. Thank you.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

<u>Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores:</u> 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 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Belalyn 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:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 24-17: 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 20, 2025.

## Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on July 14, 2025:

- H. B. NO. 24-34: To streamline business licensing in the Commonwealth by establishing a business start-up task force, a digital one-stop platform, a support center, and a conditional business licensing process. Introduced by REP. THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representative Roy C. A. Ada) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce.
- H. B. NO. 24-35: To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao on behalf of REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for himself) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.
- H. B. NO. 24-36: To establish a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao on behalf of REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Health and Welfare and to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.
- H. B. NO. 24-37: To suspend the operations of the Commonwealth Casino Commission; to transfer casino regulatory functions to the Commonwealth Lottery Commission on an interim basis; to establish a Division of Gaming within the Department of Finance; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the House Committee on Gaming.

- H. B. NO. 24-38: To establish a dedicated CNMI Emergency Reserve Fund ("Rainy Day Fund") with annual mandatory deposits and procedures for fund disbursement in times of declared emergency, while ensuring fiscal accountability. Introduced by REP. DIEGO V. F. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, and Marissa R. Flores) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.
- H. B. NO. 24-39: To establish Treatment Program Enforcement Officers within the Judiciary to carry out enforcement, supervision, and monitoring functions essential to the success of court-supervised treatment programs, and to ensure that these officers are fully recognized as law enforcement personnel under Commonwealth law. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 14, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.
- H. L. B. NO. 24-18: To appropriate \$75,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Marissa R. Flores, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 14, 2025.
- H. L. B. NO. 24-19: To appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$260,670.00 from the Third Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund allotted to Precinct 1 under Saipan Local Law 22-16; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, and Raymond U. Palacios) on July 14, 2025.
- H. RES. NO. 24-11: To respectfully urge the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to ensure meaningful and equitable involvement of Northern Marianas Descent (NMD) persons, and recognition of the Northern Mariana Islands' traditional knowledge, stewardship, and proprietary rights in all current and future activities related to ocean exploration, marine research, data ownership, and commercialization of marine resources in the Mariana Trench and surrounding waters. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, 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, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 14, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.
- H. C. R. NO. 24-2: To Define and Identify General Revenue and Approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the

Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, 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. DlC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 14, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.