

NOV. 05, 2025



## HOUSE JOURNAL

### SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

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**5<sup>th</sup> Day, Second Regular Session**
**Thursday, October 9, 2025**


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*The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fifth Day, Second Regular Session on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 1:14 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Present
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

<sup>1</sup> Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Official Rules of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, which permits members to appear, participate, and vote electronically through telephone, video, internet, or other electronic means, provided that the member is physically present within the Commonwealth.

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, 17 members are present and 3 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Roy Ada, Joseph Flores, and Julie Ogo are excused from today's session. We now move down to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is opened 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 three individuals on the following item:*

**H. L. I. NO. 24-1:** To amend Article XV, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to define "General Revenues" and "Special Revenues" consistent with CNMI Supreme Court ruling, "In the Matter of a Petition for Certified Question," and to clarify that the Public School System's twenty-five percent guaranteed appropriation shall be calculated on the net General Revenues after crediting debt service and statutory obligations.

*There being no further public comments 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, Second Regular Session Journal –August 15, 2025  
Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal –August 29, 2025*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of First Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 15, 2025, and Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 29, 2025. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt First Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 15, 2025, and Second Day, Second Regular Session Journal – August 29, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The Chair moved down to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and called for recess.*

## INTRODUCTIONS OF BILLS

*The House recessed at 1:34 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 1:34 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went under recess, we went under Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and I recognize Representative Thomas Manglona, on behalf of Representative Roy Ada, under House Bills.

***House Bills:***

*Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona formally introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-61:** To enact a new Chapter 5 to Title 1, Division 8, Part 1 of the Commonwealth Code to establish dedicated funding and a special account for the Civil Service Commission; to provide a pro rata collection, certification, and transfer mechanism of funds; to authorize a continuing appropriation and expenditure authority; and to require reporting and legislative oversight. **Prefiled by:** REP. ROY C. A. ADA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

*Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-62:** To enact a Uniform Electronic Transactions Act to enable a more robust digital economy in the Commonwealth. **Prefiled by:** REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested the Chair to place on the Bill Calendar:*

**H. B. NO. 24-63:** To amend Title 4 sections 1991 to 1995 relating to the 3% construction tax on gross revenues derived from certain non-residential construction projects and to enact a new section 1996 pertaining to Applicability; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*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 Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.*

*Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr. formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:*

**H. B. NO. 24-64:** To establish the CNMI Vehicle Buy-Back and Modernization Program, enabling the systematic removal and auction of government vehicles seven years or older, regardless of operational status, and directing revenues to the CNMI Modernization Fund to support fleet upgrades across all agencies. **Prefiled by:** REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Angelo A. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Commerce:*

**H. B. NO. 24-65:** To transfer the function of business licensing from the Department of Finance to the Department of Commerce; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself)

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

**H. B. NO. 24-66:** To regulate advisory and consulting engagements with the Commonwealth by requiring compliance with procurement laws, Attorney General approval, and Public Auditor oversight; to impose a \$50,000.00 cap per engagement; to establish priority qualifications; to void non-compliant contracts; to provide remedies and penalties for violations; and to sunset this Act after five years. **Prefiled by:** REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A.

Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai)

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

**H. B. NO. 24-67:** To promote government transparency, accountability, and digital accessibility by requiring standardized reporting of financial and grant information by all CNMI government entities, instrumentalities, and nonprofit recipients of public funds, in compliance with the Constitution, the Covenant, and applicable laws of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, and Joel C. Camacho)

*The Chair moved down to House Local Bill, and recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.*

***House Local Bills:***

*Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-29:** To rename the “Smiling Cove Marina” the “Diego T. Benavente Smiling Cove Marina” in honor of former Legislator and former Lieutenant Governor Diego Tenorio Benavente. **Prefiled by:** REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, John Paul P. Sablan, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*Representative Malcolm Jason Omar formally introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-30:** To re-appropriate the remaining fund balance of Forty-Eight Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$48,450.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 20-26; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO and REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*)

*Representative Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas formally introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-31:** To appropriate Twelve thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$12,500.00) for the personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

*Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan formally introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-32:** To re-appropriate Seventy-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Dollars (\$78,980.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-17; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

*Representative Malcolm Jason Omar formally introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-33:** To amend Saipan Local Law 24-05 that appropriated the remaining fund balance of \$85,500 under Saipan Local Law 23-04 for the repair, maintenance and improvements of recreational facilities in Precinct IV; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by:** REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO and REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*)

*The Chair moved down to House Legislative Initiatives, and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.*

***House Legislative Initiatives:***

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao formally introduced the following legislative initiative:*

**H. L. I. NO. 24-1:** To amend Article XV, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to define “General Revenues” and “Special Revenues” consistent with CNMI Supreme Court ruling, “In the Matter of a Petition for Certified Question,” and to clarify that the Public School System’s twenty-five percent guaranteed appropriation shall be calculated on the net General Revenues after crediting debt service and statutory obligations. **Prefiled 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*)

*The Chair moved down to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and recognized Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios, under House Resolutions.*

**INTRODUCTIONS OF RESOLUTIONS**

***House Resolutions:***

*Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, the Chair requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the Whole.*

*There being no objection from the author and 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. RES. NO. 24-13:** To recognize the exceptional work, unwavering commitment, and outstanding service of Erlinda Naputi, in celebrating her 33 years of service to Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, thereby enriching the lives of the people in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. **Prefiled by: REP. RAYMOND U. PALACIOS** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*)

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

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

**H. RES. NO. 24-14:** To honor Mr. Willie Tan for his visionary leadership, astute business acumen, philanthropic contributions, charitable character and lasting impact on the economic landscape and social fabric of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as his unwavering dedication and commitment to the people of the CNMI. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*)

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

***House Joint Resolutions:***

None

***House Commemorative Resolutions:***

None

***House Concurrent Resolutions:***

None

**MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

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

GOV. COMM. 24-56: (9/11/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, 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.*). Became Public Law No. 24-12. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-57: (9/22/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-26, S1 (*To appropriate \$380,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 24-11 [For info]**

GOV. COMM. 24-58: (9/23/2025) From Governor David M. Apatang, transmitting revised FY 2026 budget levels reflecting a \$22.9 million revenue reduction to \$156.7 million, and urging legislative action to address mandated obligations, including the NMI Settlement Fund (\$29M), PSS emergency funding (\$40M), NMC constitutional funding (\$6M), group health insurance (\$13M), Medicaid match, and tourism stabilization. *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-59: (9/23/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-50, HS1, (*To authorize a loan between the Commonwealth Government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of \$29,000,000 and authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and retain net annual distributable income starting Fiscal Year 2026 for repayment and security of the loan.*). Became **Public Law No. 24-13. [For info]**

GOV. COMM. 24-60: (9/29/2025) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Henry S. Hofschneider, Special Assistant to the Governor, at the Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. *[For info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-61: (9/30/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. B. No. 24-46, HD1, SS1, (*To Define and Identify General Revenues and approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9 (a) of the CNMI Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes.*). Became **Public Law No. 24-14 [Item Veto Deadline: 11/29/2025]**

GOV. COMM. 24-62: (9/30/2025) From Governor David M. Apatang, informing the Legislature of his signing into law HB 24-46, HD1, SS1 (Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2026), and urging immediate passage of standalone legislation to authorize a margin transaction as required under MPLT Resolution 25-001 for the \$29M Settlement Fund loan. *[For info]*

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

*Pursuant to the action taken, Gov. Comm. 24-61, referencing, "(9/30/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. B. No. 24-46, HD1, SS1, (To Define and Identify General Revenues and approve*

*revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9 (a) of the CNMI Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes.). Became Public Law No. 24-14 [Item Veto Deadline: 11/29/2025].” was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means; and Gov. Comm. 24-62, referencing, “(9/30/2025) From Governor David M. Apatang, informing the Legislature of his signing into law HB 24-46, HD1, SS1 (Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2026), and urging immediate passage of standalone legislation to authorize a margin transaction as required under MPLT Resolution 25-001 for the \$29M Settlement Fund loan. [For info],” was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

*The Chair moved down to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and recognized the Clerk.*

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:*

**SEN. COMM. 24-50:** (9/16/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 24-09, entitled, *“To recognize and commend Herman Blas Cabrera for his unyielding service and contribution to architecture, education, and public service as the first Saipan-born Chamorro native licensed to practice architecture in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”* [For info]

**SEN. COMM. 24-51:** (9/15/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Resolution No. 24-10, entitled, *“To disapprove the Mariana Eland Corporation’s New Lease for the former Marianas Resort & Spa Properties.”* [For info]

**SEN. COMM. 24-52:** (9/16/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-50, HS1, entitled, *“To authorize a loan between the Commonwealth Government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of \$29,000,000 and authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and retain net annual distributable income starting Fiscal Year 2026 for repayment and security of the loan.”*, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on September 15, 2025. [For info-Now P.L. 24-13]

**SEN. COMM. 24-53:** (9/16/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-45, entitled, *“To reappropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.”*, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on September 15, 2025, in the form of *H. B. No. 24-45, SD1 to read: To reappropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota and for the Rota patients’ subsistence allowance.”* [For action on Senate amendments]

[READ – 9/27/2025] SEN. COMM. 24-54: (9/26/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-46, HD1: The FY 2026 Appropriations & Budget Act. *Senate Action:* Passed with amendments in the form of H. B. No. 24-46, HD1, SS1. *House Action (9/27/2025):* The House accepted the Senate amendments and passed H. B. No. 24-46, HD1, SS1. *Status:* Enrolled to Governor for approval. [For info-Now P.L. 24-14iv]

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communication No. 24-50 through 24-54. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to accept Senate Communications No. 24-50 through 24-54 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*Pursuant to the action taken, Senate Communications No. 24-53, referencing, “(9/16/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-45, entitled, “To re-appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on September 15, 2025, in the form of H. B. No. 24-45, SD1 to read: To reappropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota and for the Rota patients’ subsistence allowance.” [For action on Senate amendments],” was placed on the bill calendar.*

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

## HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

*The Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 24-61: (9/5/2025) From Representative Elias M. Rangamar informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from September 10, 2025, to September 18, 2025, and requests to be excused from any legislative sessions, committee meetings, or official functions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-62: (9/10/2025) From Floor Leader Marissa R. Flores, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from September 14, 2025 to attend the 2025 CSG West Annual Meeting; and on personal business on September 21, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-63: (9/12/2025) From Representative Angelo A. Camacho, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from September 14, 2025 to September 25, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-64: (9/29/2025) From Representative Roy C.A. Ada informing the Speaker that he will be on personal leave from September 29, 2025 to October 9, 2025, and requesting to be excused from legislative sessions, committee meetings, and other legislative business during this period. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-65: (10/3/2025) From Representative Julie M. A. Ogo, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from October 6—October 10, 2025, and requesting to be excused from all official functions during this period. [For info]

*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

*The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Judicial Branch:*

JUD. BR. COMM. 24-7: (9/29/2025) From Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro to the Senate President and Speaker of the House submitting: *Proposed Amendment to NMI Rules of Judicial Disciplinary Procedure, specifically deleting Rule 1(d), which stated: “[f]or good cause, the Supreme Court may suspend any provision of these rules in a particular case and order proceeding as it directs.”* [Submitted 9/29/2025; Deadline: 11/28/2025]

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to accept Judicial Branch Communication No. 24-7.*

*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 for vote.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt Jud. Br. Comm. No. 24-7 with the following results:*

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

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofsneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Official Rules of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, which permits members to appear, participate, and vote electronically through telephone, video, internet, or other electronic means, provided that the member is physically present within the Commonwealth.

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 17 member present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” Judicial Branch Communication No. 24-7 is hereby approved. Thank you, colleagues. We now move down to Item No. 10, Communications from Departments and Agencies. We have none. We now move down to Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and I recognize the Clerk.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

## MISCELLNEOUS COMMUNICATION

*The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:*

MISC. COMM. 24-54: (8/27/2025) From the Chief Clerk of the Eleventh Pohnpei Legislature, transmitting a certified copy of L.R. No. 99-25, LD1, paying tribute to the late CNMI Governor Arnold I. Palacios. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-55: (9/5/2025) From Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan, transmitting the 2024 Annual Report of the Office of the Attorney General, highlighting legal services, litigation, consumer protection, and key initiatives. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-56: (9/15/2025) MPLT – Concerns on H. B. NO. 24-50 HS1 (\$29M MPLT Loan) (Margin Authority & DPL \$7M Reserves). [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-57: (9/15/2025) From Mrs. Velma Dela Cruz, widow of Firefighter III Ernie T. Dela Cruz, appealing the denial of death benefit claim under PL 08-40. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-58: (9/19/2025) From Ms. Cecilia Taitano Fitial, next of kin of Fire Crew Supervisor Lt. Joaquin Taitano Camacho, appealing the denial of death benefit claim under PL 08- 40. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-59: (9/24/2025) From DFEMS employee, appealing proposed disciplinary action. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-60: (9/25/2025) From Special Assistant Virginia Villagomez, Office of Management & Budget, transmitting the proposed FY 2026 budget allocation aligned with the Governor's revised revenue levels, recommending enactment of a Q1 budget pending MPLT loan outcome, and outlining austerity measures including reduced work hours, RIF, furloughs, and unpaid holidays. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-61: (9/30/2025) From Marianas Public Land Trust to the Governor, transmitting MPLT Resolution 25-001 approving a \$29M loan agreement with the CNMI Government for the FY 2026 Settlement Fund obligation, subject to conditions including margin account authorization and remittance of \$7M reserves from DPL. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-62: (10/2/2025) From the Marianas Public Land Trust correspondence reiterating position on \$29 million loan investment related to the NMI Settlement Fund FY 2026 obligation, referencing MPLT Resolution 25-001 and supporting legislation. [For info]

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

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

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

**S. C. R. NO. 24-36:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-51, entitled: "To establish revolving accounts for the Department of Lands & Natural Resources; and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-51, HD1.*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-37:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-33, entitled: "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." *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-33 in its current form.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

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

**S. C. R. NO. 24-36:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-51, entitled: “To establish revolving accounts for the Department of Lands & Natural Resources; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-51, 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. 24-36 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the motion to adopt the following:*

**S. C. R. NO. 24-37:** Reporting on H. B. No. 24-33, entitled: “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.” *Your House Committee on Education recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-33 in its current form.*

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente.*

Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the indulgence of the members that I, with this Standing Committee Report No. 24-37, would like to hold on to the committee for a while, until such time as the revised budget comes in. And then, from there, we would decide if we are going to go ahead and put it up or not. Because there is already a legislative initiative in place that is on the pike. That is why I am trying to pull this back—to wait for the revised budget. We are still waiting for information from the budget and from the budget office, administration, and administration office. So, we still have to see the totality of how much we are getting in total after the cutbacks and everything. From there, we can work things out. If we are going to move forward with this, we will move forward. If not, we will let it go with the legislative initiative. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.*

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to the author of this proposed legislation, at this point in time, Mr. Speaker, this is a product of the committee. The committee has deliberated, and the committee has voted on this product. If the author of this proposed legislation is just awaiting some information, I would like to ask that we simply place it on the bill calendar. While you are waiting for that information, and perhaps by the next session call, you receive the rightful information you are waiting for, we can then take action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are on the standing motion of adoption of the committee report. I think if we just adopt that, we can place the

legislation on the calendar and not take action today, and respect the Chairman's request that we hold it. That is the rightful place for holding the legislation, and not in the committee report section. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question. So, in the event that this is being held, will it be placed on the bill calendar today? It will be held pending the submission of the governor's or the administration's findings for their revised budget. In the event that this is given to the House Committee on Ways and Means, how does this now implement? How? Do we have to call for another session and do all of this stuff? Does the action take place in Ways and Means? Because the Public School System has come in and stated their case. The House Committee on Education stated their case. Everyone, I guess, has a difference of opinion, but at some point, this also has to be addressed. So, I am just seeking clarity. If we leave it on the calendar, we wait until the next session and vote on it. How does this now affect what is going to happen in Ways and Means? If anyone can answer that question for me.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the current budget law already has this language embedded in it, and I think the idea is to continue to include that because it is only for the fiscal year. This bill—I mean, we are still in the committee report—but until we get to the bill itself, it is more of a statutory thing. The initiative that I had introduced is on the constitutional side, so that is going to take its own course; it is going to take its own time. We will be doing, obviously, public outreach for that initiative. But this is really not the time to be talking about the bill itself until we get to the bill calendar. This is just to get it to the bill calendar, and it is the request of the Chairman of Education and also the author of the legislation. I think it is rightful that we just place it on the calendar and respect that part. Whether or not the administration submits a revised budget, we are still going to include that language. But I think, Mr. Chairman, it is important that we put this on the calendar rather than holding the committee report. Because now that committee report is going to be in limbo, and if you are referring it back to the committee, now you are referring to the committee report—it is not the legislation. So, I think the legislation should just proceed to the bill calendar, and we will remove the committee report under Committee Reports, if that is not a problem and if there is no objection.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*There being no item 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. Res. No. 24-13:*

**H. RES. NO. 24-13:** To recognize the exceptional work, unwavering commitment, and outstanding service of Erlinda Naputi, in celebrating her 33 years of service to Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, thereby enriching the lives of the people in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-13 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. Res. No. 24-14:*

**H. RES. NO. 24-14:** To honor Mr. Willie Tan for his visionary leadership, astute business acumen, philanthropic contributions, charitable character and lasting impact on the economic landscape and social fabric of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as his unwavering dedication and commitment to the people of the CNMI.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-14 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*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 H. B. 24-51, HD1:*

**H. B. No. 24-51, HD1:** To establish revolving accounts for the Department of Lands & Natural Resources; 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 for vote.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-51, HD1, with the following results:*

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

<sup>1</sup> Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Official Rules of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, which permits members to appear, participate, and vote electronically through telephone, video, internet, or other electronic means, provided that the member is physically present within the Commonwealth.

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 17 member present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-51, House Draft 1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-33:*

**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.

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 2:02 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 2:04 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under Bill Calendar. We are still under Bill Calendar and 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 discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-63:*

**H. B. No. 24-63:** To amend Title 4 sections 1991 to 1995 relating to the 3% construction tax on gross revenues derived from certain non-residential construction projects and to enact a new section 1996 pertaining to Applicability; and for other purposes.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.*

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being the author of this proposed legislation, as I mentioned earlier, this is a product before us that was worked on within the administration and the Attorney General's Office to address the concerns that were aired out by the Attorney General's Office with regard to some provision on the existing law to the change order provision. Those were addressed in this proposed legislation before us. And this proposed legislation before us was discussed in our deliberation on both the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs. We can assure you the members of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs are ready for this, as we have deliberated this discussion when we had an audience with both Ms. Vicky Villagomez from the Office of Management and Budget and the Secretary of Finance, Ms. Tracy, herself. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification, I do support the bill. Is there any retroactive section for this? As over a year went by, I believe the contractors at the time were filing zero because they were not sure. But clearly, when the construction tax passed, it was very clear they were supposed to be paying just for some errors that they brought out. Is the bill going to impose a retroactive?

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.*

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to Representative Ralph Yumul, there are no provisions that speak for retroactivity in this proposed legislation. I hope that answers that question.

*The Chair called for recess.*

*The House recessed at 2:08 p.m.*

*Recess*

*The House reconvened at 2:19 p.m.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under House Bill No. 24-63. The motion is for passage, and we are still under discussion.

*There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.*

*The Clerk called the roll for the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-63, First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

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

<sup>1</sup> Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Official Rules of the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Legislature, which permits members to appear, participate, and vote electronically through telephone, video, internet, or other electronic means, provided that the member is physically present within the Commonwealth.

Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 17 member present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting "yes," House Bill No. 24-63 hereby passes the House. Thank you, colleagues. That is all

for the Bill Calendar. We now move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and I recognize Representative Raymond Palacios.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for passing the House Resolution No. 24-13. Thank you.

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

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Senate for making my bill pass the committee. I want to thank Chairman Jude Hofsneider and the members of his committee. I also want to thank the Senate President. I think moving forward, I will be more gracious and humble. I also want to thank the members of the House for your continued support. I was going to try to do the first and final reading for this bill today, but I do not want to push my luck. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think some of us attended yesterday's meeting at the Governor's Office with regard to the \$29,000,000 loan and how it basically turned out. It is very disheartening when we are going beyond our limits and have to come back and try to fix stuff in this body. But we have a casino industry that is still in operation right now. It is still a law. We have a company that took over the IPI, which is Tim King. And we would like the committee on gaming and both houses to sit down with Tim King to get their plans as to how they are going to move forward. The court gave them almost a year to purchase the license to run the casino. We need to find out how we can help them be successful. We need to invite them in and be open and transparent about it, get everybody involved, and see how we can improve this and learn from the past mistakes. So, we need to invite them and look at how we can move forward. You know, when my neighboring island is appropriating \$12,500, that shows what we are down to. So, we need to look at this more, invite them, see where their plans are, and get a clear direction as to how we want to move gaming in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente.*

Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs for meeting with the members of the House Committee on Ways and Means to put together their two cents as far as the budget is put together and their involvement. It shows that there are positive notes as far as moving forward with whatever we are doing, and I hope that it continues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to give them kudos for that.

*The Chair recognized Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho.*

Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Representative Yumul, for mentioning the casino. I strongly agree with you. Since the inception that they supposedly took over the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, we have not really heard much about what their plans are. And I think it is very important for us, at the very least, to call them in, hear them out, and see what their plans are moving forward. Because at this point, we are not sure if they are even interested in just the hotel itself or operating the casino. So, at least, we can get a better understanding moving forward to see how we can make some proposed amendments to the current bill that we currently have to make it better for our people and our retirees, especially. Every year, we struggle to find funding to pay our retirees, and I think this is one step that we can take moving forward. But again, I think we should work on just sharing our ideas and thoughts on, maybe, perhaps, making some amendments to the current casino law. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.*

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take a moment to thank our chairman of Education for exercising his judgment on his legislation. I understand that we had the Public School System here. They expressed their sentiments, and I understand we all have a job to do, too. I think what is needed is more collaboration and understanding. I think there is a lot of misconception, and there is a lot of confusion. That is why I thank him for taking the time to take a step back and take another look at it, trying to see how we can come to a common ground. Because it is not our intent to undermine the school system at all. We all have a job to do to take care of the whole government. I think what is needed is just more collaboration with the Public School System, and more understanding with our finances—where we are at, where they are at, and coming to an agreement that makes sense for us all. I know that we are in a tough situation right now, but I have hope, and just like Representative Yumul mentioned, we have the casino, and there are potential investors out there. I just want to let the community out there know that there is hope. There is hope, and we must continue to just push through this tough time. We are all feeling it. We understand where you are coming from, but there is a lot to look forward to. And I just want to express to our students and everybody at the Public School System that we do want to work with you, and we hope that we can find a common ground that works for everyone in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you. I was not going to say anything, but when Representative Yumul spoke about the casino that sits in my precinct, it would be an injustice if I did not. In line with what he says, I would have to agree with him and Representative Angelo Camacho about that. But we also have to bear in mind that the Department of Public Lands has a responsibility to go in there and check that building. The Department of Public Lands also has a responsibility to look at the inventory of what our public land valuations are right now. There are so many things that need to be updated, and we should do that during this economic downturn, right? So that when we plan for next year, it is not so chaotic. And in light of that, I know, Mr. Speaker, that there was a press conference about two weeks ago, maybe last week, from the administration about committing themselves that it would take about 10 days for the administration to come up with a product to be submitted to our House Ways and Means chairman. And I just want to echo that those 10 days should have expired today. So, my hope is that we receive

something soon. Because the public is looking at the legislative branch to do something and do anything. And the ball is in their court. I am hoping that they could provide our chairman with the information that is needed so that we can compromise appropriately and fairly and finally get the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.*

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also chime in and agree with Representative Ralph Yumul that the Committee on Gaming should meet with Tim King to discuss and, kind of, hear what their plans are with regards to the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel building there in Garapan. I also wanted to emphasize and let the viewing public know that during our deliberation, both the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs have discussed many revenue-generating legislations that we should be jointly discussing and deliberating on. And that is to include looking at amending the casino law to make it more realistic and lessen the mandates, such as the 2,000-room mandate, the state-of-the-art water park, and the convention center. We want to scale it down to where it is really feasible for investors to do business in our Commonwealth. So, those are points and discussions that are forthcoming between the joint Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. Speaker, and the Committee on Fiscal Affairs of the Senate. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative John Paul Sablan. Any further under miscellaneous?

*Several members of the House voiced “ready.”*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, colleagues. I just want to, under miscellaneous, just remind you all that we are hosting the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures. The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures will be held on the week of October 27<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>. Right now the Legislative Bureau is kind of taking care of the logistics. I would like to ask that you make your offices and your staff available at least the week prior and the week of to stand-by for any assistance that we may need when we are hosting this event. So, I just thought I would give you that heads up, and I greatly appreciate the help and support. We are hosting leaders from the different islands throughout Micronesia, and also Polynesia. So, thank you. Any further under miscellaneous?

*Several members of the House voiced “ready.”*

*The Chair moved down to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to announce to the august body, and most especially to the Committee on Ways and Means, that I have communicated with the administration, specifically the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Finance, Secretary of Finance. So, we are expecting a package by tomorrow before

noon on the proposed detailed plan of the administration on the revised budget. I just wanted to announce that to the members, and that most especially for the members of Ways and Means, as soon as we get that communication, I hope we can get that also electronically. I will send the communication to each member so that you can review it over the weekend. Then, on Monday of next week, I will schedule an informal meeting with the committee before we invite Ms. Vicky Villagomez, the Secretary of Finance and Office of Management and Budget, to explain briefly to both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs. Thank you.

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

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to, together with Chairman John Paul Sablan, invite the members of the House to come down to our beautiful village of District 3 for the fiesta on Saturday. As you know, Precinct 2 is one of the most beautiful villages throughout the island. So, I just wanted you all to come down and witness how beautiful it is. Thank you very much. And then tomorrow, Saturday, there is also the 670 Veterans Golf Classic. So, if you all can support our veterans, please—it would be nice. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.*

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, we really want to show the visitors how abundant the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is with whatever they have. So, please, if you have something, get something small for them. We are going to be filling up a bag—a gigantic bag. We need a lot of stuff inside, about 50 items, because there will be 50 people coming. We already have ice candy, we have something from Rota—the necklace, and *donne' pika* from Tinian. And we also have tuba, sweet tuba. So, please, try to think of something that is from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—made in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not made in China. Thank you. And deliver it to my office or to the director. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.*

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost forgot, and thank you for Representative Aquino's reminder. Also, this Sunday, Tanapag is celebrating their fiesta for Santa Remedios, and we have our festivities to kick off at 3:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome, and we welcome the viewing public. Thank you, members, for your donations, also, for what has been collected. Thank you, again.

*There being no further announcements, the Chair moved down to Adjournment, and recognized the Floor Leader.*

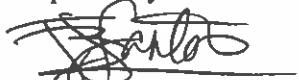
## **ADJOURNMENT**

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 discussion on the floor, the motion to adjournment was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The House adjourned at 2:36 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos  
House Journal Clerk

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## APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

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### *Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on September 9, 2025:*

H. B. NO. 24-59: To enact the “CNMI Fair Billing Practices Act” to establish clear and fair standards for back billing practices in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to protect consumers while allowing service providers to recover unpaid amounts lawfully due; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representative Julie M.A. Ogo) on September 9, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Commerce. [Public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of September 9, 2025]

[ADDED-9/9/2025] H. B. NO. 24-60: To safeguard the Commonwealth’s landfill capacity, public health, and environment by restricting the acceptance and disposal of waste generated off-island unless certain health, safety, and environmental conditions are met. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAM of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on September 9, 2025. Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources on September 11, 2025.

H. L. B. NO. 24-27: To appropriate Three Hundred and Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000.00) for the continued operation and regulatory oversight of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO on behalf of REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself) on September 9, 2025.

[ADDED-9/9/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-28: To re-appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$221,649.00 under Saipan Local Law 22-16 (Project Code 2001E); and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ANGELO A. CAMACHO and REP. THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for themselves) on September 9, 2025.

H. RES. NO. 24-12: To establish bi-annual legislative oversight hearings and reporting requirements for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding the implementation and impacts of Public Law No. 24-11; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, John Paul

P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul; Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on September 9, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 24-8: To urge the United States to take immediate and comprehensive action to identify, remove, and safely dispose of World War II-era unexploded ordnance throughout the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul; Roy C.A. Ada, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai) on September 9, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 24-9: To respectfully urge the United States Department of the Treasury, United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Postal Service and any other responsible federal agencies to immediately cease and desist the implementation of Executive Order 14324 and remit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands all revenues collected under Executive Order 14324, or in the alternative, to recognize the CNMI's authority to collect such revenues itself consistent with the Covenant and applicable law in the event that said charges must be imposed. Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO, EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ, JOHN PAUL P. SABLAM, JOEL C. CAMACHO, RALPH N. YUMUL, VINCENT R. ALDAN, AND DANIEL I. AQUINO JR.; Roy C.A. Ada, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai on September 9, 2025; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.