



HOUSE JOURNAL SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

9th Day, Second Regular Session

Tuesday, November 25, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 1:08 p.m. in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

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

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

¹ 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, we have 17 members present and 3 members absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present, that constitutes a quorum. Let the record reflect that Representatives Angelo Camacho, Elias Rangamar, and Ralph Yumul are excused for today's session. Colleagues, as discussed before the session, we will proceed to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and I recognize Representative Malcolm Omar under House Resolutions.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar 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. RES. NO. 24-18: To deeply honor and celebrate the impactful life and indelible legacy of the late Honorable Benigno Magofna Sablan, whose tireless dedication and myriad contributions were instrumental to the progress of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to humbly offer our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family. **Prefiled by: REPS. JOEL C. CAMACHO and MALCOLM J. OMAR** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*)

There being no further introduction of House Resolutions and no items under House Joint Resolutions, House Commemorative Resolutions, and House Concurrent Resolutions, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to adopt H. Res. No. 24-16:

H. RES. No. 24-16: To recognize and commend Project Buddy Check 670 for its unwavering dedication to empowering veterans and their families in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for its longstanding contributions to community service, unity, and the well-being of our veterans

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. 24-16 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt H. Res. No. 24-18:

H. RES. NO. 24-18: To deeply honor and celebrate the impactful life and indelible legacy of the late Honorable Benigno Magofna Sablan, whose tireless dedication and myriad contributions were instrumental to the progress of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to humbly offer our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-18 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 1:13 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 1:36 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: We rise back to session. Before we went on recess, we were on the Resolution Calendar. We adopted House Resolution 24-16 and 24-18, and we still have one more remaining. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt H. Res. No. 24-17:

H. Res. No. 24-17: To honor and commend the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his lifetime of public service and enduring contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend the Legislature’s collective prayers and gratitude to him and his family.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized the Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the body and the public that we did make some technical amendments to this current resolution. Because when we had introduced this resolution, the Honorable, the late Diego was still alive. And because of his sudden passing, we have made some technical changes to the title and language just to memorialize and to acknowledge his passing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: That is all technical, correct??

Counsel Karie Comstock: Yes, it is all technical. We can proceed.

The motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-17 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 2, Public Comments, and opened the floor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no public comments presented, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 3, Adoption of Journals, and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following House Journals:

- Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 9, 2025*
- Sixth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 24, 2025*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 9, 2025, and Sixth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 24, 2025. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt Fifth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 9, 2025, and Sixth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – October 24, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo, under House Local Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

None

House Local Bills:

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. No. 24-35: To appropriate \$16,926 of the Rota Poker License Fee Account under BU 3302; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

There being no further introduction of Bills and no item under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Clerk.

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-75: (11/14/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-23 D1 (*To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour Act*). Became **Rota Local Law 24-03** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-76: (11/14/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-24 (*To establish the Rota Department of Public Works Equipment Rental Fee; and for other purposes*). Became **Rota Local Law 24-04** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-77: (11/14/2025) From Governor David M. Apatang informing the Legislature that the Group Health and Life Insurance (GHLI) Program is at risk of termination due to delays in passing the FY 2026 Revised Budget. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-78: (11/18/2025) From Governor David M. Apatang providing updated FY 2026 general revenue projections and identifying an additional \$5.9 million in available lapsed funds and MPLT interest income. The communication further outlines proposed priority allocations for PSS operations, MVA tourism recovery, the Rainy Day Fund, and municipal support. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-79: (received 11/19/2025) **Executive Order No. 2025-004: Establishing the Business Permitting Center.** Executive Order from the Governor establishing a centralized Business Permitting Center within the Department of Commerce to streamline and coordinate interagency permitting, licensing, and regulatory processes for business applicants. The order sets out staffing, coordination mandates, and implementation requirements across DFEMS, DPW, Zoning, Finance, CHCC Environmental Health, and other agencies. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-80: (received 11/19/2025) **Executive Order No. 2025-005: Transfer of Cannabis Regulatory Authority.** Executive Order transferring all statutory duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission to the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division under the Department of Commerce. The order consolidates regulatory oversight, terminates commissioner positions for cause, and directs the transition of staff, operations, and enforcement responsibilities. [*Submitted: 11/19/2025; Deadline: 1/18/2026*]

GOV. COMM. 24-81: (11/21/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-68, HD1, (*To conditionally authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to establish a margin account solely to facilitate the \$29,000,000 loan authorized under Public Law 24-13, subject to the continuing fiduciary and constitutional duties of the Trustees.*). Became **Public Law No. 24-17** [*For info*]

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

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge the Governor's Communication No. 24-80 received by this House on November 19, 2025, the Executive Order No. 2025-05: Transfer of Cannabis Regulatory Authority. I would like to point out to the Chairperson of the Cannabis Committee to please take a look at that Executive Order. As we know, the Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control may or may not receive federal funds. And because this is still classed as a drug, we do not want to lose any money because we failed to look at the regulations and jeopardize any federal funds that are committed and awarded to the Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a comment in regard to Governor's Communication No. 24-78. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, regarding this \$4.9 million of lapsed funds from the Public School System, this \$4.9 million cannot be identified by the administration as new monies because these monies have already been appropriated and have been lapsed into the Public School System's accounts. They utilize federal monies to address their needs at the time, and a lot of these appropriations were remitted to the Public School System later within the fiscal year. Therefore, the monies lapsed; they were not able to use those monies. House Bill No. 24-70, sitting in the Senate, authorizes them to utilize those funds that we had passed a few weeks ago. And the only way the Public School System can utilize those funds is by authorization by the legislature and obviously signing into law by the administration. It cannot be considered new money because those monies have already been appropriated to the Public School System. It is through their audit reports that we found that \$4.9 million, and we want to make it very clear that we cannot adjust the budget by an additional \$4.9 million because those are not new monies collected within this fiscal year. Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for allowing me to speak on that specific issue.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make comments under Governor's Communication No. 24-81, informing the House that he has signed House Bill No. 24-68 into law. This is the \$29 million authorization loan with the Marianas Public Land Trust. And it is the hope of this Legislature, as we work so hard for this proposed legislation, that negotiations are undertaken at this moment, and we look forward to any communication from the administration that a deal is struck with regard to this authorization. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to comment on Governor's Communication No. 24-77, informing the Legislature that the Group Health Life Insurance Program is at risk of termination due to delays in passing the Fiscal Year 2026 revised budget. I would like to inform the public, because I know we receive calls in regard to this, that right after this session we are scheduled to meet with the Senate side, or our counterparts, to go over this issue and see how we can remedy it. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Manglona Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to quickly comment on Governor's Communication No. 24-79, Executive Order No. 2025-004, establishing the Business Permitting Center. I would like to thank Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Mendiola for their efforts. I think this is long overdue. I know we may be working on legislation of mine that is kind of similar, and it may seem redundant. But this legislation is meant to be in place so that it continues, regardless of possible changeovers in the administration. So, thank you, colleagues. And I thank you, Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Mendiola.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also comment on Governor's Communication No. 24-77, regarding retirees' Group Health Life Insurance. I was wondering maybe if the House and the Senate can just release the funding or approve the funding for at least the life insurance or the health insurance part of the budget and then deal with the budget bill later. But I think there is a deadline for this, and I think the sooner we get this thing resolved, the less calls we are going to receive. I also think the confidence regarding the Office of Interior is also wondering what the problem is within our local government system and why it takes so long. So, I am asking the House and the Senate to work in harmony so we can just get this thing done. At least pass this thing, please. Because I am getting calls, and I just want to let the public know that I am a minority. I am not the leadership. But I also respect every one of you guys, and you know your position and how you act on these things. I would like to ask the governor if he can release our allotment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just adding on to Governor's Communication No. 24-77. I know Ms. Joyce Tang from the settlement fund had

released a notice to all the retirees about the issue of the Group Health Life Insurance for the retirees. I just want to let the retirees know that, like what Leader Roy Ada mentioned, we are meeting shortly after this session at 03:00 p.m. with our counterpart at the Senate, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee. And the topic of today's discussion will be this issue. I am hopeful that we can work, as we had done by passing the budget before October 1st, 2025. I would like to assure the retirees that the issue with the Group Health Life Insurance is a top priority for us, your committees of Ways and Means, and Fiscal Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Governor Apatang in regard to Governor's Communication No. 24-75, which became Rota Local Law 24-03, which establishes and authorizes the Historic Preservation Office to collect fees for the tour guide to be able to fund the fuel and operation. I also would like to express sincere gratitude to Governor Apatang regarding Governor's Communication No. 24-76, which became Rota Local Law 24-04, which also established an account to collect fees for heavy equipment under the Department of Public Works. This will also give them the ability to fund their operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Pursuant to the action taken, Governor's Communication No. 24-79, referencing, "(received 11/19/2025) Executive Order No. 2025-004: Establishing the Business Permitting Center. Executive Order from the Governor establishing a centralized Business Permitting Center within the Department of Commerce to streamline and coordinate interagency permitting, licensing, and regulatory processes for business applicants. The order sets out staffing, coordination mandates, and implementation requirements across DFEMS, DPW, Zoning, Finance, CHCC Environmental Health, and other agencies.", was referred to the House Committee on Commerce; and Governor's Communication No. 24-80, referencing, "(received 11/19/2025) Executive Order No. 2025-005: Transfer of Cannabis Regulatory Authority. Executive Order transferring all statutory duties and responsibilities of the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission to the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division under the Department of Commerce. The order consolidates regulatory oversight, terminates commissioner positions for cause, and directs the transition of staff, operations, and enforcement responsibilities.", was referred to the House Committees on Cannabis and, Judicial and Governmental Operations,

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 24-55: (11/17/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-68, HD1, entitled, "To conditionally authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to establish a margin account solely to facilitate the \$29,000,000 loan authorized under Public Law 24-13, subject to the continuing fiduciary and constitutional duties of the Trustees.",

which was passed by the Senate without amendments on November 14, 2025. [*For info-Became Public Law 24-17*]

SEN. COMM. 24-56: (11/17/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-54, entitled, “*To increase the number of military leave hours available to CNMI government employees and to broaden eligibility for its use.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on November 17, 2025. [*For info- Trans to GOV 11/18/2025*]

SEN. COMM. 24-57: (11/20/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04, entitled, “*To recognize and honor the Late Noboru Hirayama for his unwavering dedication and contributions to strengthening the bond between the people of Saipan and Japan on the occasion of the 111th year anniversary of the establishment of the Saipan Katori Shrine.*”. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 24-58: (11/20/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-05, entitled, “*To recognize and commend the Northern Marianas Football Association for its steadfast contributions to the sports community of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on occasion of the association’s 20th year anniversary.*”. [*For info*]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communications No. 24-55 through 24-58. 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. 24-55 through 24-58 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Senate President and the Senate members for their swift action in the passage of my bill to increase the number of military leave hours available in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ government and to broaden eligibility for its use. I want to thank them, the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, and all the members who voted. And I also would like to ask the governor to kindly expedite the signing of this bill. As many service members are aware of this bill and are looking forward and anxious for its passage. Thank you.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 8, House Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 24-70: (11/10/2025) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from November 11 through November 17, 2025, and respectfully requests to be excused from any legislative sessions, committee meetings, or official functions during his absence. He further designates SNILD Floor Leader, Representative Joel C. Camacho, to serve as Acting Chair of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) for the duration of his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-71: (11/12/2025) From Representative Elias M. Rangamar, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from November 15, through November 23, 2025, and requesting to be excused from legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings during his absence. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-72: (11/14/2025) From Floor Leader Marissa R. Flores, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from November 17, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings during her absence. [*For info*]

There being no discussion on the floor and no item under Item No. 9, Communications from the Judicial Branch, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 10, Communications from Departments & Agencies, and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-24: From the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs submitting FY 2025 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-25: From the Department of Lands & Natural Resources submitting FY 2025 Citizen-Centric Report. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-26: (10/31/2025) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) submitting *FY 2025—Fourth Quarter Financial Report ending September 30, 2025*. [*For info*]

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 24-75: Chair of the CNMI Civil Service Commission re: 2026 CSC Officers and Committee Assignments. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-76: From the Commonwealth HealthCare Corporation submitting FY 2025 Citizen-Centric Report. [For info]

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded 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. 24-40: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-34, entitled: “To streamline business licensing in the Commonwealth by establishing a business start-up task force, a digital onestop platform, a support center, and a conditional business licensing process.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-34 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-41: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-31, SD1, entitled: “To ensure food safety and support small food entrepreneurs sell non-time/temperature control (TCS) for safety food and home-cooked meals; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass S. B. No. 24-31, SD1 in its current form.*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-40: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-34, entitled: “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.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 24-34 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. 24-40 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-41: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-31, SD1, entitled: “To ensure food safety and support small food entrepreneurs sell non-time/temperature control (TCS) for safety food and home-cooked meals; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce recommends that the House pass S. B. No. 24-31, SD1 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 S. C. R. No. 24-41 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being nothing further on the floor, and no Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-34:

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.

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 for the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-34, 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes

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

¹ 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 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-34 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of S. B. No. 24-31, SD1:

S. B. No. 24-31, SD1: To ensure food safety and support small food entrepreneurs sell non-time/temperature control (TCS) for safety food and home-cooked meals; 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 S. B. No. 24-31, 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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes

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

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present voting “yes,” Senate Bill No. 24-31, Senate Draft 1 hereby passes the House. Thank you, colleagues. With nothing further under the Bill Calendar, we now proceed to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and I recognize Representative Roy Ada.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to all the members here for supporting House Resolution No. 24-17 to honor the late Diego Benavente. I would like to ask the Speaker that he represent us and present this resolution to the family of the late Diego Benavente. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Leader Ada. So noted. I recognize Representative Vincent Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read a letter that I will be sending to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. If the members can allow me to read this. I really do think this is critical, because this is going to be a generational impact if we do not start. Actually, we are extremely late. Then again, better late than never. This is a formal letter that I will be submitting online to the federal e-rulemaking portal. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has submitted a request for information and interest concerning commercial leasing for outer continental shelf minerals offshore of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federal Registration No. 2025-19852. On behalf of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I submit these comments in response to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s request for information and interest titled “Commercial Leasing for Outer Continental Shelf Minerals Offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,” published in the Federal Register on November 12, 2025. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is a self-governing United States jurisdiction whose people, including Chamorro and Carolinian—*Refaluwasch*—Indigenous communities, have deep, longstanding cultural, economic, and spiritual connections to the surrounding ocean. Our fisheries, tourism, subsistence

practices, and cultural traditions rely on a healthy marine environment and on the integrity of the broader ocean ecosystem in and beyond our nearshore waters. The request for information and interest describes a potential leasing program for non-oil-and-gas minerals on the outer continental shelf in an offshore area of approximately 35.48 million acres adjacent to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This area, encompassing deep waters and seabed features such as abyssal plains and seamounts, has been identified as potentially prospective for ferromanganese crusts, polymetallic nodules, and other mineral deposits. While we recognize the federal government's interest in securing critical mineral supplies and enhancing national economic and security objectives, we must emphasize that any such activities in our offshore area directly implicate the rights, interests, and well-being of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our core position is as follows: One, under current federal law and policy, there is no clear, guaranteed framework ensuring that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will share fairly in any economic benefits arising from outer continental shelf mineral leasing offshore the Commonwealth, including bonus bids, rentals, or royalties; two, the environmental, cultural, and socio-economic risks and potential harms from seabed mineral exploration and mining in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore area would be borne locally by our communities, ecosystems, and future generations; and three, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's existing consultation framework does not – again, does not – provide the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with a clear, legally recognized consent authority or veto over leasing decisions that may significantly affect our territory and people. In light of global and Pacific experience with similar extractive and strategic projects, and in light of the current legal framework, we cannot assume that a seabed mineral leasing regime framed as serving as “national interest” or “energy emergency” needs will automatically benefit our islands. Absent meaningful reforms that guarantee territorial consent, equitable revenue-sharing, strong environmental and cultural protections, and tangible local benefits, we cannot conclude that the contemplated leasing regime would provide a net benefit to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Therefore, we submit the following specific comments and requests: One, the legal framework and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' position. The Outer Continental Shelf Legal Act, 43 United States Code §§ 1331–1356c, declares it to be national policy that the outer continental shelf be made available for “expeditious and orderly development, subject to environmental safeguards” and in a manner consistent with the “maintenance of competition and other national needs.” Section 8(k), 43 United States Code § 1337(k), grants the Secretary of the Interior authority to lease “any mineral other than oil, gas, and sulfur” on the outer continental shelf under such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 expanded the statutory definition of the outer continental shelf to include certain submerged lands adjacent to United States' territories, thereby clarifying that the Outer Continental Shelf Act applies to submerged lands within the United States' exclusive economic zone adjacent to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's regulations at 30 Code of Federal Regulations Part 581 implement leasing of minerals other than oil, gas, and sulfur, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code § 4332, requires federal agencies to analyze environmental impacts and reasonable alternatives before undertaking major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Notwithstanding these authorities, there is no explicit statutory revenue-sharing formula for territorial outer continental shelf critical mining leasing that guarantees the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a significant share of economic value, and there is no statutory provision granting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands consent

authority or veto over leasing decisions. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' role is primarily consultative. Two, territorial consent and decision-making authority. We urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Department of the Interior to recognize, in policy and in any future program decisions, that no commercial seabed mineral leasing or mining should proceed offshore the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands without the clear, informed, and freely given support of the Commonwealth's elected leadership and Indigenous communities. We further note that the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, endorsed by the United States in 2010, affirms that states shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before approving any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources. Although the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is not self-executing federal law, it reflects an emerging international minimum standard that should guide the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's engagement with Chamorro and Carolinian people. Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management treat the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government's position as a central, determinative factor in any decision whether to advance from the request for information and interest stage to a proposed leasing notice and formally recommend that Congress establish, by statute, a territorial consent requirement for outer continental shelf mineral leasing adjacent to United States' territories, including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, consistent with the principle of free, prior, and informed consent for Indigenous populations. Three, revenue sharing and economic equity. The request for information and interest is framed in terms of national benefits, including reduced dependence on foreign critical mineral supply chains and enhanced United States' economic and security resilience. However, there is currently no explicit statutory revenue-sharing formula guaranteeing that the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive a fair share of any economic value generated from leasing or production of seabed minerals in our offshore area. We therefore request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management acknowledge in its record that, under existing law, territorial revenue-sharing for outer continental shelf critical-mineral leasing is unclear and inadequate and we recommend that Congress establish a statutory revenue-sharing formula for territorial outer continental shelf mineral leasing that, at a minimum, provides a substantial portion of all bonus bids, rentals, and royalties to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' government for investment in infrastructure, education, climate resilience, environmental stewardship, and Indigenous cultural programs. Any future leasing program that does not guarantee significant, predictable revenue streams for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will be perceived as transferring our natural wealth offshore without fair compensation. Four, environmental protection, precaution, and scientific baseline. Any deep-sea ecosystems are among the least understood on Earth, yet they may be highly vulnerable to disturbance from large-scale seabed mining operations. Sediment plumes, noise, light, physical habitat removal, and other impacts have the potential to affect not only the mining site but also broader ecological dynamics, including those connected to fisheries upon which our communities depend. Scientific studies of past deep-sea disturbances have shown that ecological impacts can remain evident decades later. Consistent with the precautionary principles, intergenerational equity, and best available science, we request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management: Commit to a science-first approach in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore area, including comprehensive baseline studies of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and connectivity before any decision to advance to a leasing program; Ensure that all environmental data collected in connection with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore

area are promptly and fully shared with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' government and made publicly accessible, with appropriate safeguards for any proprietary information; and Recognize that, until the long-term environmental consequences of deep-sea mineral extraction are better understood, any move toward commercial-scale operations in our offshore area would be premature and potentially irreparable. We further note that the International Union for Conservation of Nature and a growing number of states, scientists, and financial institutions have called for a moratorium or precautionary pause on deep-sea mining until robust scientific knowledge, regulatory frameworks, and safeguards are in place. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management should align its approach with this emerging global consensus. Five, indigenous rights, cultural resources, and sacred sites. The request for information and interest expressly invites comments regarding potential impacts on Indigenous peoples, sacred sites—including submerged—traditional use areas, and cultural and spiritual values. For Chamorro and Carolinian communities, the ocean is not merely a resource; it is an essential part of identity, history, navigation traditions, and spiritual belief. We request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management engage in early, continuous, and culturally appropriate consultation with Chamorro and Carolinian leaders and knowledge holders, not limited to formal comment periods; Support mapping and documentation, led by Indigenous communities, of cultural, historical, and spiritual areas of significance in the offshore area, recognizing appropriate confidentiality protections; and Designate culturally and spiritually sensitive areas, once identified, as exclusion zones where no leasing or associated activities will be considered. Six, local benefits, capacity-building, and community protection. If, despite our concerns, the federal government considers proceeding toward leasing, any program must be designed to provide tangible, enforceable benefits to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to protect our communities from disproportionate harm. At a minimum, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management should commit that any lease terms for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore area will include local hiring and training targets, with clear reporting and enforcement mechanisms; prioritization of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ports and facilities for vessel servicing, logistics, and associated shore-based operations where feasible; Funding by lessees of independent environmental and social monitoring programs under the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands oversight, including community-based monitoring components; Establishment of a long-term mitigation and community benefit fund, capitalized by lessee payments, to address any direct or indirect adverse impacts on fisheries, cultural practices, and community wellbeing; and Protections against boom-bust cycles, including requirements that operators plan for decommissioning, site rehabilitation, and post-closure monitoring. Seven, the request for information and interest process, outreach, and timeline. We request that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management structure its request for information and interest and any subsequent processes in a manner that meaningfully includes the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' residents and stakeholders. Therefore, we ask that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management hold in-person public meetings and listening sessions in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at times and locations accessible to fishers, community members, and Indigenous leaders; Provide clear, plain-language summaries of the request for information and interest and any subsequent documents in English and, where appropriate, in other languages used by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands communities; Allow sufficient time for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' government and communities to review technical information and to provide informed comment, including extensions of comment deadlines where justified; and Designate the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' government as a cooperating

agency in any National Environmental Policy Act environmental impact statement that may be prepared for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore minerals program, recognizing the Commonwealth's special expertise and stake in the outcome. Eight, historical precedents and the need to avoid a sacrifice zones. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' concerns are not hypothetical. As summarized in the accompanying background analysis, global and Pacific history provides multiple examples in which powerful states and corporate actors have used small island territories and Indigenous lands to advance strategic or economic agendas, while the local communities have been left to cope with environmental, health, and social consequences. These examples include, among others – our own people – the phosphate strip-mining in Banaba and Nauru, which removed much of the land surface of those islands, displaced communities, and left landscapes that are largely uninhabitable; the Papua New Guinea copper-gold mining, which generated substantial export earnings for central governments and companies while inflicting severe and ongoing damage on rivers, forests, and local livelihoods, contributing to a violent civil conflict; Oil extraction in Nigeria's Niger Delta, where decades of spills, gas flaring, and contamination have degraded farmlands, fisheries, and water sources, even as oil revenues have supported the central state and corporate profits; and uranium mining, where Indigenous miners and communities experienced elevated cancer rates and long-term health impacts from radiation exposure, and where hundreds of contaminated sites still require cleanup decades later. In the Pacific context, the nuclear testing programs of the United States in the Marshall Islands and France in French Polynesia stand as particularly stark warnings: Entire atolls were used as test sites and waste repositories in the name of national security and nuclear deterrence; Indigenous people were displaced, exposed to fallout, and left with contaminated lands and waters; and compensation and cleanup efforts still remain incomplete. In each of these cases, the strategic or economic benefits flowed primarily to distant capitals, while indigenous and local communities became de facto sacrifice zones. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's proposed offshore minerals initiative, if designed without robust consent, benefit-sharing, and safeguards, risks repeating this pattern in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Therefore, we urge the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to explicitly acknowledge these historical lessons in its programmatic analyses and to design any possible Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore minerals program in a way that avoids treating our islands and people as expendable for distant strategic purposes and priorities. In conclusion, the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands understand the importance of strategic resources, national security, and economic development. We also understand, perhaps more acutely than distant decision-makers, the consequences when external interests extract value from our environment without leaving our communities better off or fully respecting our rights and way of life. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this request for information and interest and to place on the record our concerns, principles, and expectations. We stand ready to engage constructively with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Department of the Interior, and other federal partners to ensure that any decisions affecting the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands offshore area are made transparently, responsibly, and with full regard for the rights and well-being of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Representative Aldan, for that passionate stance, and you made many good points. I wanted to also

thank you all, my colleagues, for the passage of House Bill No. 24-34. Again, this one-stop and our permitting and licensing for businesses has been an issue that has been brought up since the early 2000s. I cannot express how thankful I am that there is movement. Obviously right now with our economic situation, we do need to cater to our business community. And if we provide more convenience for businesses to become operational, then that would encourage more business operations. Hopefully encourage more collections for our government in taxes. So, thank you all again. I hope everyone has a blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not take up any more time. I know we need to prepare for the 03:00 p.m. meeting that we have. But on behalf of residents of Precinct 3, my family, and myself, I would like to express my condolences to Auntie Vicky and their children. The late Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente was a very good friend of mine. In fact, he was one of my dad's good friends. And I would be remiss if I did not express my condolences on behalf of Precinct 3, its families, its businesses, its corporate leaders, and everybody who is a part of our beautiful and best precinct on the island. Once again, on behalf of the residents of Precinct 3, we offer our sincerest condolences to the family of the late Honorable Diego Benavente. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to renew my condolences, again, to the family of the late Honorable, former Lieutenant Governor, Diego Tenorio Benavente. He was a friend of my dad. They used to play golf in Guam and Saipan. The one thing you can always remember about him is always his smiles. Good days, bad days—he always had a smile. And like I told the media, he was always somebody you could count on to pick up whenever you needed advice. He was always there. I guess that is how people of Susupe, Precinct 2, are—very friendly. That is why, Chairman Sablan, without a doubt, I would say that Precinct 2 *i mas gatbo yan bonito na* election district *gi terimentin* Saipan. I want to say the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but I have not seen the Northern Islands yet. With that, I yield.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to announce and thank Representative Aldan for his statement. But I want to announce that the Request for Information and Interest deadline is on December 12, 2025. The deadline was given by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. There is still a request for an extension, but the current deadline is December 12, 2025, and we are urging the public to participate by submitting their interest or information during this comment period. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with Representatives Aldan and Omar, the Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension, & Education Services is sponsoring a community conversation titled Deep Sea Mining in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is hear the voices of the deep. Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu. The location and save the date is December 3rd, 2025, in the American Memorial Park indoor theater, from 04:30 p.m. to 07:00 p.m. Once again, sponsored by the Northern Marianas College Cooperative, Research, Extension, & Education Services. Save the date for December 3, 2025, in the American Memorial Park indoor theater, from 04:30 p.m. to 07:00 p.m. And if you have any questions, please contact the Northern Marianas College representative Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu. And, also, from everybody in Precinct 3, the families, the businesses, my family, Happy Thanksgiving, Marianas. We love you very much.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to wish everyone here and your families a happy Thanksgiving. To the people of Precinct 2, I am sincerely humbled and blessed that you gave me this opportunity to be here with a bunch of magnificent people. And for that I am truly grateful and wish everyone in Precinct 2, and throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a happy Thanksgiving. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice-Speaker Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know this is announcements, but on behalf of the people of Precinct 1, the biggest precinct, I would like to extend a heartfelt happy Thanksgiving to you all, my colleagues, your families, and to the people of the Commonwealth. And Representative Aquino, *esta málom i allotment*. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone, from me and everyone in Precinct 3. On Thanksgiving Day, Majesty's Restaurant, which is in Precinct 3, will be distributing meals. If you know anyone who will not be able to have any meals on Thanksgiving Day, ask them to go over to Majesty's Restaurant in Precinct 3. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I said it earlier, but again, I want to wish everybody a happy thanksgiving, on behalf of the great precinct of Precinct 5. And I also wanted to recognize all the families that are gathering, and all the families that have reunions. And most in particular, I wanted my Quichocho family who will be celebrating their 42nd annual Thanksgiving reunion. One of the longest standing reunions, I think, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Thank you, *familia*, and I will see you all on Thursday.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now that the Vice Speaker mentioned that the allotment is in, I want to thank the governor, Papa Tang. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Aquino. Once again, to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on behalf of the 24th House of Representatives, Happy Thanksgiving. May you have a safe and, of course, a very enjoyable time with your family and friends. With that, we now proceed to adjournment, and I recognize 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 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during House Session on November 6, 2025:

H. B. NO. 24-70: To authorize the Public School System (PSS) to utilize unrestricted funds previously appropriated to PSS for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

[Added-11/6/2025] H. B. No. 24-71: To allow for the Substance Abuse, Addiction & Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program to promulgate fees; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Health and Welfare.

[Added-11/6/2025] H. B. NO. 24-72: To impose a remittance transfer tax within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands equivalent to the federal excise tax under 26 U.S.C §4475, to ensure equitable revenue capture from outbound remittances, to strengthen compliance with federal fiscal policy; and for other purposes. Introduced by Rep. Marissa R. Flores of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself, 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, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) on November 6, 2025; referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on November 12, 2025 (MEMO).

[Added-11/6/2025] H. B. NO. 24-73: To provide a nonrefundable tax credit to taxpayers who make donations of cash or food supplies to qualified community-based service organizations. Introduced by REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for himself, and Representative Denita K. Yangetmai*) on November 6, 2025; referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on November 12, 2025 (MEMO).

[Added-11/6/2025] H. B. NO. 24-74: To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025. Introduced 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. DIC. Manglona, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently moved and place on the Bill Calendar.

[Added-11/6/2025] H. RES. NO. 24-16: To recognize and commend Project Buddy Check 670 for its unwavering dedication to empowering veterans and their families in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and for its longstanding contributions to community service, unity, and the well-being of our veterans. Introduced by REP. THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, 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*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently moved and place on the Resolution Calendar.

[Added-11/6/2025] H. RES. NO. 24-17: To honor and commend the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente for his lifetime of public service and enduring contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend the Legislature's collective prayers and gratitude to him and his family. Introduced by REP. ROY C. A. ADA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently moved and place on the Resolution Calendar.

[Added-11/6/2025] C. RES. NO. 2-5: To celebrate and commemorate the Northern Marianas Islands Football Association's (NMIFA) 20th Anniversary and the remarkable impact NMIFA has made in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) on November 6, 2025; subsequently moved and place on the Resolution Calendar.