



HOUSE JOURNAL

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

12th Day, Second Regular Session

Monday, December 29, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Twelfth Day, Second Regular Session on Monday, December 29, 2025, at 1:08 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth 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 Aldan Ada	Present
Representative Vincent Raymond Alda	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcom Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Absent (Excused)
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 Villgomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present, that constitutes a quorum. Let the record reflect that Representatives Thomas Manglona, Patrick San Nicolas, and Ralph Yumul are excused for today’s session. We now proceed to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is open to receive comments. Please state your name and the entity you represent, you have five minutes. If you have statements, please submit them to the Sergeant-at-Arms for forwarding to the Clerk’s office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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:

Seventh Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 6, 2025

Eighth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 7, 2025

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt Seventh Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 6, 2025 and, Eighth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 7, 2025. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt Seventh Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 6, 2025 and, Eighth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – November 7, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being no items under Item No. 4, Introductions of Bills, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 5, Introductions of Resolutions, and recognized himself under House Resolutions.

INTRODUCTIONS OF BILLS

House Bills:

None

House Local Bills:

None

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

INTRODUCTIONS OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez formally introduced the following resolution and, with 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. 24-23: To express the profound gratitude and commendation of the House of Representatives to Mrs. Jacqueline Ayuyu Quitugua for her extraordinary career spanning over 44 years, marked by unwavering dedication and transformative contributions to the education, wellbeing, and development of the youth and school communities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, as she dawns her well-deserved retirement. **Prefiled 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, Roma C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V.F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J. M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita K. Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*)

There being no further introductions of House Resolutions and no items under House Joint Resolutions through House Concurrent Resolutions, and Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

None

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 24-65: (12/23/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-75, entitled, “To authorize the continued payment of employer premiums for the Group Health & Life Insurance (GHLI) Program by permitting expenditure of \$3,747,585.00 recently identified by the Governor that shall be appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2026.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 22, 2025. [For info- Trans to GOV 12/23/2025]

SEN. COMM. 24-66: (12/23/2025) Returning H. C. R. NO. 24-3, HS1, entitled, “To further approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified under Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and Title 1, Division 7, of the Commonwealth Code, for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning January 1, 2026, and ending on September 30, 2026.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 22, 2025. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-67: (12/23/2025) Returning H. B. No. 24-80, HS1, entitled, “To Repeal and ReEnact Public Law 24-14 to further 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.”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on December 22, 2025. [For info- Trans to GOV 12/23/2025]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communication No. 24-65 through 24-67. 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. 24-65 through 24-67 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being no items under Item No. 8, House Communications, through Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICAITONS

None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to adopt H. J. R. No. 24-10:

H. J. R. NO. 24-10: A House Joint Resolution to honor and congratulate CITADEL Pacific Ltd. (CPL) on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary.

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 H. J. R. No. 24-10 with the following results:

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

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Absent (Excused)
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 all 17 members present voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution No. 24-10 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt H. Res. No.24-23:

H. RES. NO. 24-23: To express the profound gratitude and commendation of the House of Representatives to Mrs. Jacqueline Ayuyu Quitugua for her extraordinary career spanning over 44 years, marked by unwavering dedication and transformative contributions to the education, wellbeing, and development of the youth and school communities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, as she dawns her well-deserved retirement.

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.24-23 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to reject H. B. No. 24-74, SS2:

H. B. NO. 24-74, SS2: A Bill for an Act to appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust. [For action on Senate amendments]

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 vote for the motion to reject H. B. No. 24-74, SS2, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Alda	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Yes
Representative Malcom Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Absent (Excused)
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. Before I announce the results of the vote, for clarification, on our Bill Calendar, it shows House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 2 but the motion was for House Bill No. 24-45, Senate Substitute 2. Which is the correct bill? Let us go into a quick recess for clarification.

The House recessed at 1:20 p.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were looking for clarification for the bill number. And after consulting with the Clerk and looking through our records, it is House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 2. With 17 “yes” votes for rejection and for the conference committee, I appoint Representatives Blas Attao, John Paul Sablan, and Ralph Yumul, with an alternative member being our Floor Leader, Representative Marissa Flores. Thank you, colleagues. That is all for our bill calendar. We now proceed to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and the floor is open. I recognize Representative John Paul Palacios.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask for your indulgence, under Miscellaneous Business, that we meet as a body. Perhaps after this session, so we can discuss the communication from the Secretary of Finance to our Legislative Bureau Director with regard to our allotments and the provisions that are stated in Public Law No. 24-20. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sablan. What is a good time, right after session?

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Right after this session, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Okay. Members, we are good with that. This is regarding the letter giving us the authority to pretty much run our own finances, just to meet with the Director. I recognize Representative Aquino.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is important. Because just listening to the Governor's concerns, one of them was—and my concern is—the fact that, because we do not have particular regulation in place, next payroll we are looking at no pay for our independent contracts. I also have some thoughts for the fastest way to do that, which is just to get our procurement regulations in place right now. And then have our staff just work to do the inputting. I mean, we can do this thing right away. But I think the main thing that I heard was the fact that there was no transition period. That was all I heard. I hope you all can resolve this right away, because some of our staff only earn the bare minimum. And at this point, they did not get paid for Christmas. So, having said that, I hope that we can resolve this issue right away. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Aquino. Again, I encourage the members to stay back. We will get together with the Director and talk about the pros and cons of this. Colleagues, are there any further discussions on the floor?

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this time to wish the people of Precinct 2, or let them know that one of your hardworking congressmen of Precinct 2 was sick over the Christmas break. Maybe too much cemetery dust, but I am here today with one of the born-ready-to-lead, Chairman John Paul Sablan—we are here ready to work out a lot of the issues. I want to wish everyone from my district—the greatest district that I know—a happy new year. And I hope that your new year is filled with plenty of blessings, love, and prosperity. And I hope for the same for all the members here. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with our representative from Precinct 2, on behalf of the people of the Precinct 3 and the Precinct 3 members, Representatives Villagomez, Yumul, Attao, Yangetmai, and Rangamar, we wish you all—the Commonwealth and the people—a very blessed happy new year and be safe. We love you all.

The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the people and my colleagues of Precinct 1, we would like to wish everyone a safe and blessed happy new year. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Chairman, John Paul Sablan, and myself, we would like to thank our leader, Representative Ada, for his contribution to the airport road grass cutting maintenance that we collaborated with him on, Chairman John Paul's staff and himself, and Parks and Recreation. I want to thank Parks and Recreation, my staff, and Chairman John Paul's staff. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente.

Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank you all, Mr. Speaker and members, for expressing your gratitude and introducing House Resolution No. 24-23, which is addressed supposedly to Jacqueline Quitugua of the Public School System. I also share the same sentiments as you, Mr. Speaker. I have worked with Mrs. Quitugua for the longest time. She is one of the pioneers in the Public School System. As far as making sure that many of us get educated, as far as the students are concerned. I would also like to acknowledge that she has worked diligently in every fashion to try to make the Public School System better. For so many years, in the past, I have witnessed her actions and duties and responsibilities at the time. Because I also was working with them at the time. And thank you all for that. I like to see that she is being honored and praised for what she has done from the past until now, and I look forward to a better future for her. And I would like to wish her a very merry Christmas and a happy new year, as well as to the members we have here today. I would like to wish you all a happy new year and merry Christmas. And we hope that we can continue to work together and to continue serving our community. It is hard and a challenge because of the budget that we are facing. But despite that, I would like to ask everyone to work cohesively. Regardless of what precinct you are in, let us work together as a team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded 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 for adjournment was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The House adjourned at 1:30 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:

H. L. B. NO. 24-37: To rename Isa Drive to “Governor Carlos S. Camacho Drive” in honor of the First Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez*) Introduced on December 5, 2025.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on December 22, 2026:

H. B. NO. 24-78: To amend Title 4. Economic Resources, Division 6. Banking and Financial Institutions of the Commonwealth Code, to give the Banking Director authority to regulate digital asset businesses; and for other purposes. REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself, Representatives Malcolm J. Omar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez*). Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025. Referred to: House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on December 22, 2025.

H. B. NO. 24-79: To amend Title 4, Division 2, Chapter 3 of the Commonwealth Code, to amend the Commonwealth Gaming provisions, remove exclusive license, and allow for more casino licenses; and for other purposes. REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and John Paul P. Sablan*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025. Referred to: House Committee on Gaming on December 22, 2025.

H. B. NO. 24-80: To Repeal and Re-Enact Public Law 24-14 to further 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. REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025; placed on the Bill Calendar; and passed on First and Final Reading as H. B. NO. 24-80, HSI.

H. B. NO. 24-81: To establish a Non-Profit Organization Tax Credit to incentivize individual and corporate contributions, promote philanthropic engagement, and ensure the long-term viability of organizations that provide essential services and enhance the quality of life for the people of the CNMI. REP. JOSEPH A. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025.

H. RES. NO. 24-21: To encourage the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to declare a Proactive Resilience Emergency Declaration to protect the Commonwealth's renewable energy future in light of the approaching federal deadline under the 2025 "Big Beautiful Budget" Act (BBB); and urging all agencies to fast-track renewable energy projects before the opportunity expires. REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, and the Committee of the Whole House*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments.

H. RES. NO. 24-22: Supporting the establishment of mandatory financial literacy education in CNMI public schools; urging the CNMI Public School System (PSS) and the Board of Education to collaborate with private financial institutions, workforce development partners, and accredited financial education providers; and encouraging a unified, community-wide effort to equip students with essential financial skills needed for lifelong success. REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself, and the Committee of the Whole House*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments.

[ADDED-12/22/2025] H. J. R. NO. 24-10: To honor and congratulate CITADEL Pacific Ltd. (CPL) on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself, and the Committee of the Whole House*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025; placed on the Resolution Calendar; no further action taken.

H. C. R. NO. 24-3: To further approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified under Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and Title 1, Division 7, of the Commonwealth Code, for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026. REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*) Action: Introduced on December 22, 2025; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted as H. C. R. NO. 24-3, HS1.