

ADOPTED
JUNE 18, 2026



HOUSE JOURNAL THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2026

4th Day, Third Regular Session

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Fourth Day, Third Regular Session on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 10:18 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

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

Representative Roy Christopher 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	Absent (Excused)
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	Present
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	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members are present and 3 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Roman Benavente, Denita Yangetmai, and Ralph Yumul are excused for today's session. I now recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule III, Section 6.

RULE III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS.

Section 6. Notice of Sessions.

Not less than 72 hours prior to convening a Regular or Special Session, the Speaker or a majority of the members of the House, shall file a written public notice of the date, time, and place of a session with the Clerk and post the same at the executive branch administration building and the Legislature's website. When possible, notices under this section shall be given to at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notices shall contain an agenda of items to be considered at the session. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such session. Once filed as part of this notice, the agenda may only be changed by adding items thereto by the recorded vote of the majority of the members of the House.

The motion was seconded; 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 suspend Rule III, Section 6 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	Absent (Excused)
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	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
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 within the Commonwealth.

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” the motion carried. Thank you, colleagues. 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

Public Comments was present by two individuals on the following items:

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-3: Reporting on the re-nomination of Mr. James S. Sirok to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the Third Senatorial District, and the re-nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the First Senatorial District. *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House confirm Mr. James S. Sirok and Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as members of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).*

SEN. COMM. 24-88: (2/27/2026) Informing the House that the Senate on its 4th Day, Third Regular Session on February 26, 2026 overrode the Governor’s veto to S.B. No. 24-04, entitled, “An Act to advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI,” by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. [For Info] **[Note: Override Veto Deadline-3/22/2026]**

There being no further 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:

*Twelfth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 29, 2025
Thirteenth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 31, 2025*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt Twelfth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 29, 2025 and Thirteenth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 31, 2025. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt Twelfth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 29,

2025 and, Thirteenth Day, Second Regular Session Journal – December 31, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 4, Introductions of Bills, and recognized Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar under House Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested that it be placed on the Bill Calendar:

H. B. NO. 24-102: To amend the Fire Safety Code to apply to the International Fire Code as the guiding standard in the Commonwealth. **Prefiled by: ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule IX, Section 8.

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 himself.

Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and, Natural Resources:

H. B. NO. 24-103: To deposit the fiber optic telecommunications cable rights-of-way annual use fee into a Submerged Lands Revolving Fund Account for the management and maintenance of submerged lands. **Prefiled by: REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*)

The Chair opened the floor for further introduction of House Bills and recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means:

[ADDED-3/18/2026] **H. B. NO. 24-104:** To earmark the Phyto Sanitary Certificate and the Certificate of Origin fees collected by the Customs and Bio-Security, and for other purposes. **Introduced by: JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*)

There being no further introduction of House Bills, the Chair proceeded to House Local Bills and recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

House Local Bills:

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. NO. 24-52: To appropriate \$125,000.00 allotted under Saipan Local Law 20-26 (2)(r)(1); and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao, on behalf of Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul, formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. NO. 24-53: To appropriate \$220,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. RALPH N. YUMUL** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Manglona, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez*)

There being no item under House Legislative Initiatives through Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, House Resolutions and House Joint Resolutions, the Chair then recognized Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar, under House Commemorative Resolutions.

House Legislative Initiatives

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

None

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar formally introduced the following resolution and, there being no objection, requested that it be introduced by the Committee of the whole House.

There being no objection on the floor, the resolution was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the whole House. The Chair then demanded it be placed on the Resolution Calendar for consideration.

C. RES. NO. 24-6: To recognize and commend the late Melvin Wayne Camacho Sakisat, for his exemplary service and selfless dedication to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to his bereaved family. **Prefiled by: REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, and John Paul P. Sablan)

The Chair opened the floor for introductions of unnumbered Commemorative Resolutions and recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.

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

There being no objection on the floor, the Resolution was accordingly introduced by the Committee of the whole House. The Chair then demanded that it be placed on the Resolution Calendar for consideration.

[ADDED-3/18/2026] **C. RES. NO. 24-7:** To recognize and commend the Pioneer Contestants and Titleholders of the Miss Northern Marianas Descent Beauty Pageant for their dedication to the preservation, promotion, and advancement of the Chamorro and Carolinian culture, heritage, and history in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*, Representatives Marissa R. Flores, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, 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, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

There being no further introductions of Commemorative Resolutions and no item under House Concurrent Resolution, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Clerk.

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-105: (1/21/2026) Informing the House that the Governor vetoed S. B. No. 24-04, entitled, *“To advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI.”* Previously read on February 9, 2026 and referred to the House Committee on Education. **[Override Veto Deadline: 3/22/2026]**

GOV. COMM. 24-119: (3/4/2026) Governor’s Opposition to the Override of Line-Item Vetoes to Public Law 24-20 and Request for Confirmation of Budget Email Transmission. *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-120: (3/11/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-23, *(To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate.)*. Became **Public Law No. 24-23**. *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-121: (3/11/2026) Informing the House that he vetoed 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.)*. **[Deadline: 5/10/2026]**

GOV. COMM. 24-122: (3/12/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-11, *(To provide greater authority to government transit buses owned and operated by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA); to establish traffic safety measures, enhance public engagement, ensure fiscal responsibility, and comply with existing CNMI laws and federal standards; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law No. 24-24**. *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-123: (3/12/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 24-35, *(To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law No. 24-25**. *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-124: (3/12/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24- 49, S1 *(To appropriate One Hundred Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$103,625.00) for Medical Subsistence, Municipal Scholarship, and operations of the Mayor of Rota.)*. Became **Rota Local Law 24-07** *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-125: (3/12/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-51 *(To appropriate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Rota Aging Program and the Rota DCCA Flame Tree Arts.)*. Became **Rota Local Law 24-08** *[For Info]*

GOV. COMM. 24-126: (3/12/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-42 (*To amend the Wedding Cake Mountain Wildlife Conservation Area, to authorize the Mayor of Rota to plan, construct, and maintain a pedestrian pathway at Wedding Cake Mountain and access to the Grotto, and to initiate actions necessary to qualify for federal grants, and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 24-09** [*For Info*]

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:37 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, and I now recognize Representative Julie Ogo.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Governor David M. Apatang for signing into law Rota Local Law 24-07, Rota Local Law 24-08, Rota Local Law 24-09, and Public Law 24-23. Governor Apatang, your decision to sign these measures into law reflects your continued commitment to supporting the island of Rota and strengthening the Commonwealth as a whole. These laws are not just pieces of legislation; they represent meaningful progress for the community, addressing important needs and helping move our island, our Commonwealth, forward. On behalf of the people of Rota, I thank you for your leadership in recognizing the importance of these measures. Your support ensures that the work we do in the legislature translates into real benefits for people. *Si yu'us ma'asi*, Governor Apatang.

The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to comment on Governor's Communication No. 24-123, which was House Bill No. 24-25, and became Public Law No. 24-25. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Governor Apatang for signing House Bill No. 24-35. This important legislation strengthens the Commonwealth's good Samaritan protections and expands access to life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications such as naloxone. House Bill No. 24-35 is significant because it removes barriers that previously limited access to Nalaxon and provides limited civil liability protections for individuals who administer the medications in emergency situations. By allowing prescriptions to be issued to individuals other than persons at risk and increasing distribution channels, the law helps ensure that this life-saving medication is more accessible to families, first responders, and community members who may need it during crisis. This measure represents a proactive step towards protecting our communities, saving lives, and strengthening our public health response to the ongoing opioid overdose and crisis that we face nationally as well as locally. I commend Governor Apatang for his leadership and commitment to policies that prioritize the health and safety of the people of the Commonwealth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to override the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04, referencing Governor's Communication No. 24-105, entitled, "To advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI."

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

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members. Before we vote on this, I just want to share a story that just happened yesterday. I will just withhold names. I went to one of the coffee shops and this uncle of mine asked me if I was able to speak the native vernacular, Chamorro. I said, "No. I can pretty much understand. I can speak a little and I do not want to make any attempt because I do not want anyone to criticize me about the wrong verbiage." And he says, "*Lania* boy, you ate too much *guen* english." So, I said, "I guess so. Maybe I just need to eat a lot of *guen* english." But how this relates to this bill, I really do believe this bill is very important because we need to preserve our, not only our language, but our culture. I think that the kids need to understand a little bit about our past and preserve whatever was in the past. Because some of how we were raised in the past, it really is beneficial today when we see a lot of western influences that impact how our kids grow up. A lot of them say, "You know we used to get hit with a frying pan." Maybe that is not allowed, but the language and the culture, I think, are the fundamental roots for our kids today. Whether you are Chamorro, whether you are Carolinian, I think everyone that comes here to make Saipan their home needs to also go through this so they can understand where we come from, also as a people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take the moment to thank the Youth Congress for taking the lead on this legislation. I think it underscores the importance, right? Especially coming from the youth, right? This is something that they care about and something that we need to support and help push as far as we can. It is also proof that the youth does have a voice and can make an impact. So, thank you to all the members, the Senators, and the Youth Congress for taking the lead and for your leadership. It is something that I know that we are proud of. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Are there any further discussions on the floor?

Several members of the House voiced "ready."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Members, the motion is to override the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04. An affirmative of two-thirds or 14 members out of the 20 is the number to beat or to have. And with nothing further, I now recognize the Clerk to please call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04, referencing, Governor's Communication No. 24-105, entitled, "To advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI.", with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Absent (Excused)
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	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 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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 17 members are present and 3 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting "yes," the motion carried, and the House has overridden the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04. I recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Are we still under Governor's Communication?

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Yes.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Sorry, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to extend my appreciation to the Honorable Governor David M. Apatang under Governor's Communication No. 24-122, informing the House that he signed House Bill No. 24-11, entitled, "To provide greater authority to government transit buses owned and operated by the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority; to establish traffic safety measures, enhance public engagement, assure fiscal responsibility, and comply with existing CNMI laws and federal standards; and for other purposes.", which became Public Law No. 24-24. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to ask the members that, although we are overriding the Governor's veto, sometimes in the mornings, like that first override, my name changed to "Override." You know, "Good morning, Override." So, I do not know what is going to happen tomorrow with this bill. But I hope that we can enter into a friendlier dialogue with the Governor. He has an open-door policy, and maybe he can lessen the "override" name that comes to me in the morning. And with that, I just hope that the Governor, too, understands where we are coming from. Especially with the other ones that I see here. Because we all have a voice. And although he gets his guidance from his advisers, too. But we, too, have our own thoughts and opinions. And I just want us to respect each other and hopefully have a better dialogue with each other. Because he really is a down-to-earth person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Aquino. Okay. With nothing further, I would like to recognize the Clerk to go back to the attendance and include Representative Roman Benavente's attendance for today's session.

ROLL CALL

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

Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente

Present

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, we now have 18 members present.

The Chair called for a recess.

The House recessed at 10:51 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:53 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, I asked the Clerk to acknowledge the presence and the attendance of Representative Roman Benavente in today's session. A little technical error on my part. During the voting of the override, his vote was, of course, not included. Because he was still absent even though he was physically present, but not on record. His vote did not count. But during recess, we discussed with the members and he accepted. So, we will go back to the override to include Representative Roman Benavente's vote since he is now officially present. I now recognize the Clerk for Representative Roman Benavente's vote on the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to override the Governor's veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04, referencing, Governor's Communication No. 24-105, entitled, "To advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI.", with the following results:

Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente

Yes

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. Let the record reflect that correction that now it is with a vote of 18 “yes” of the 18 members present today, and that the House has overridden the Governor’s veto to Senate Bill No. 24-04. Thank you, members. And, again, we apologize for that technical error. We now proceed to Item No. 7, Senate Communications, and I recognize the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 24-87: (2/27/2026) Informing the House that the Senate on its 4th Day, Third Regular Session on February 26, 2026 overrode certain parts of the Governor’s line-item vetoes to H.B. 24-80, HS1, (Public Law 24-20) by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. [*For Info*]

SEN. COMM. 24-88: (2/27/2026) Informing the House that the Senate on its 4th Day, Third Regular Session on February 26, 2026 overrode the Governor’s veto to S.B. No. 24-04, entitled, “An Act to advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI,” by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present. [*For Info*] **[Note: Override Veto Deadline-3/22/2026]**

SEN. COMM. 24-89: (2/27/2026) Returning H. B. No. 24-23, entitled, “*To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on February 26, 2026. [*For Info- Became Public Law No. 24-23*]

SEN. COMM. 24-90: (2/27/2026) Returning 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.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on February 26, 2026. [*For Info- Governor Vetoed*]

SEN. COMM. 24-91: (2/27/2026) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-25, SD1, entitled, “*To amend 4 CMC § 10306(a)(4) to allow the board of directors to authorize the executive director to review and grant loan or loan guarantee applications exceeding \$25,000.00 per applicant; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on February 26, 2026. **[For Action]**

SEN. COMM. 24-92: (2/27/2026) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-40, entitled, “*To amend 9 CMC §3114 by requiring the Department of Public Safety’s*

Rules & Regulations regarding Commercial vehicles be consistent with those of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate on February 26, 2026. **[For Action]**

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communications No. 24-87 through 24-92. 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. 24-87 through 24-92 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Pursuant to the actions taken:

- 1- *Senate Communications No. 24-91, referencing, "(2/27/2026) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-25, SD1, entitled, "To amend 4 CMC § 10306(a)(4) to allow the board of directors to authorize the executive director to review and grant loan or loan guarantee applications exceeding \$25,000.00 per applicant; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate on February 26, 2026.", was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means; and*
- 2- *Senate Communications No. 24-92, referencing, "(2/27/2026) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 24-40, entitled, "To amend 9 CMC §3114 by requiring the Department of Public Safety's Rules & Regulations regarding Commercial vehicles be consistent with those of the United States Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate on February 26, 2026.", was referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations.*

There being no 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. 24-87: (2/24/2026) From Representative Roy C.A. Ada informing the Speaker that he will be on personal leave from February 24, 2026 to February 27, 2026, and requesting to be excused from scheduled meetings or sessions during this period. **[For Info]**

HSE. COMM. 24-88: (3/5/2026) Clarification of Receipt of Public Law 24-20 Veto Message and Confirmation of Legislative Override of Fourteen Line-Item Vetoes. **[For Info]**

HSE. COMM. 24-89: (3/13/2026) From Representative Denita K. Yangetmai informing the Speaker that she will extend her personal leave from March 16, 2026

through April 16, 2026, and requesting to be excused from all official functions during this period. [*For Info*]

There being no discussion on the floor and no item under Item No. 9, Communications from the Judicial Branch, and Item No. 10, Communications from Departments and Agencies, the Chair proceeded Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

None

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 24-98: (3/3/2026) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Resolution No. 24-04, entitled, “*To recognize and commend Esteven Manalo King for his outstanding contributions to the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*”. [*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:

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-1: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-87 entitled, “To require an independent valuation of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), restore constitutional and audit oversight, modernize procurement and review procedures, protect ratepayers, and clarify the economic framework for any privatization transaction; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24-87 in its current form.*

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-2: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-88 entitled, “To mandate that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation undergo a comprehensive, independent, third-party utility expert audit; to require a formal Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission audit-review docket and transparent public review process; to require an enforceable corrective action plan, a ratepayer impact matrix, and a public audit implementation dashboard; to impose strict timelines and narrowly limited extensions; to require mandatory decennial audits; to establish compliance

reporting and civil penalties for missed deadlines payable to the CNMI Treasury; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House pass H.B. No. 24-88 in its current form.*

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-3: Reporting on the re-nomination of Mr. James S. Sirok to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the Third Senatorial District, and the re-nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the First Senatorial District. *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House confirm Mr. James S. Sirok and Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as members of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).*

S. C. R. NO. 24-45: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-91, entitled, “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-46: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-18, SD1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 2803 regarding the budget submission of the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass S. B. No. 24-18, SD1 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-47: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-19, entitled, “To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass S. B. No. 24-19 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-48: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-72, entitled, “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.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-72, HS1.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-49: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-85, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission’s authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24- 85 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-50: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-92, entitled, “To appropriate \$63,000.00 from Schedule A of Public Law 24-20 that was vetoed for the Soil and

Water Conservation Districts; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24-92 in its current form.*

S. C. R. NO. 24-51: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-89, entitled, “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the Second Senatorial District.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-89, HSI.*

The Chair called for a recess.

The House recessed at 10:57 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 11:09 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we just entered Item No. 11, Reports of Standing Committees, and the Clerk announced the standing committee reports that are under this item of the agenda. And with that, I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt JNT. S. R. NO. 24-1:

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-1: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-87 entitled, “To require an independent valuation of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), restore constitutional and audit oversight, modernize procurement and review procedures, protect ratepayers, and clarify the economic framework for any privatization transaction; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24-87 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 JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-1 was carried voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-2:

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-2: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-88 entitled, “To mandate that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation undergo a comprehensive, independent, third-party utility expert audit; to require a formal Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission audit-review docket and transparent public review process; to require an enforceable corrective action plan, a ratepayer impact matrix, and a public audit

implementation dashboard; to impose strict timelines and narrowly limited extensions; to require mandatory decennial audits; to establish compliance reporting and civil penalties for missed deadlines payable to the CNMI Treasury; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House pass H.B. No. 24-88 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 JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-2 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-3:

JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-3: Reporting on the re-nomination of Mr. James S. Sirok to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the Third Senatorial District, and the re-nomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing the First Senatorial District. *Your House Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Transportation and Infrastructure recommend that the House confirm Mr. James S. Sirok and Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as members of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).*

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 to adopt JNT. S. C. R. NO. 24-3 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting “yes,” Joint Standing Committee Report No. 24-3 is hereby adopted. Congratulations on the confirmation of Mr. Sirok and Mr. Quitugua. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-45:

S. C. R. NO. 24-45: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-91, entitled, “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1.*

The motion was seconded; 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 – I know Representative Julie Ogo introduced this bill for her constituents in the First Senatorial District, and I would like to ask for her consideration. I know that, I believe, there will be some discussion with the members also of your delegation. But the Commonwealth was recently given some leverage by the government of Guam when they paid for the dues that were owed to WICHE, which is the post-secondary students attending college in the mainland. And we know that there are some constituents within the Commonwealth that includes the First and Third Senatorial Districts. I think the total amount that Guam had asked for was \$174,000.00 in repayment since they covered our membership dues. And so I am asking for your consideration, Representative Ogo. If you can bring this to your delegation. As we know, all of our students and all of our children within the Commonwealth, including the Northern Islands, I assume, are all attending college. And for this repayment to be given back to the government of Guam would be a nice gesture that we can repay back what they are also helping us to pay for. So, thank you.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-45 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to refer S. C. R. NO. 24-46 back to committee:

S. C. R. NO. 24-46: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-18, SD1, entitled, “To amend 1 CMC § 2803 regarding the budget submission of the Department of Public Lands; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass S. B. No. 24-18, 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 refer S. C. R. NO. 24-46 back to committee was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-47:

S. C. R. NO. 24-47: Reporting on S. B. No. 24-19, entitled, “To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass S. B. No. 24-19 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. 24-47 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-48:

S. C. R. NO. 24-48: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-72, entitled, “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.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-72, HS1.*

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. 24-48 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-49:

S. C. R. NO. 24-49: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-85, entitled, “To amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission’s authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; and

for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24- 85 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. 24-49 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-50:

S. C. R. NO. 24-50: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-92, entitled, “To appropriate \$63,000.00 from Schedule A of Public Law 24-20 that was vetoed for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass H. B. No. 24-92 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. 24-50 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-51:

S. C. R. NO. 24-51: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-89, entitled, “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the Second Senatorial District.” *Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommend that the House pass the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-89, HSI.*

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to ask our great colleague from the Second Senatorial District to also consider my request, my ask. And my humble ask to also consider putting funds aside, if possible, to the debt that is owed to the government of Guam. When they paid the dues that jeopardize the enrollment tuition for our students going to the school in the United States. Thank you, Representative Patrick San Nicolas, for your kind consideration.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. NO. 24-51 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and recognized the Clerk.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

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

C. C. R. NO. 24-2: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-72, SS2 entitled, “To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust.”
Your Conference Committee recommends passage of this bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-74, SS1, CCS1.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-2:

C. C. R. NO. 24-2: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-72, SS2 entitled, “To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust.”
Your Conference Committee recommends passage of this bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-74, SS1, CCS1.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I want to thank your committee members for the conference committee regarding House Bill No. 24-74, Senate Substitute 2, namely Representatives John Paul Sablan and Ralph Yumul and our alternate, Floor Leader Marissa Flores, for their participation and discussion on the matter. I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Senate, our Senate counterparts led by Chairman Jude Hofschneider, Senator Frank Cruz, Floor Leader Donald Manglona, and their alternate Senate Vice President Corina Magofna. What started as House Bill No. 24-74 was to address an emergency need back in November regarding the shortage of the Nutritional Assistance Program funding for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands when the federal government was under shutdown. Fortunately for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Nutritional Assistance Program, the federal shutdown was lifted regarding the nutritional needs for the people—not just for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but for other territories of the United States and the United States itself. When this legislation made it to the Senate, they made proper amendments to their position regarding the funds because they were freed up. The \$1 million was freed up, and it was distributed to the respective senatorial districts and the Public School System. Your conference committee met, and we are, again, faced with another emergency regarding our tourism recovery efforts here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. And during the deliberation in that conference committee, both houses had agreed that what started as an emergency—the current emergency at this time, which is tourism recovery—we met with the team from the Marianas Visitors Authority, and they were able to break down, by numbers and details, how these funds can assist in making sure that air transportation continues here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I know it is not the total

amount that they were asking for, but it is a good starting point for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that we as a body, as a branch of the government, are answering to the call of what we face as an emergency here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. It is very unfortunate that the legislative body continues to kill fires. We should be working on how we can move forward—very unfortunate. And external circumstances dictate a lot of our economic recovery here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. With the few resources that we have, we are able to address these problems through band-aid solutions at the moment. We are also working on getting more permanent solutions, and the Marianas Visitors Authority is also doing its part to ensure that they concentrate on economic recovery. And in those conversations, we were very strict on making sure these monies were addressed to the needs of our tourism recovery. So, the members agreed that the monies would be going to the Marianas Visitors Authority to assist in tourism recovery, and not to forget the Public School System would get the 25%. So, with that, Mr. Speaker, your committee that you assigned, your members that you assigned to this conference committee, did their part and made sure that we addressed the pressing needs that we are facing in the Commonwealth. Again, we extend our appreciation to our counterparts in the Senate for also agreeing to the position of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands so we can move forward in assisting the needs of our people. Thank you, again, to Representatives John Paul Sablan and Ralph Yumul, Floor Leader Marissa Flores, and to all the members for chiming in with your thoughts on how we can move forward with these funds before we even got to the conference committee. We did this as a body, and we will continue to work as a body as we press forward for more permanent solutions for our people and our economic recovery. With that, thank you, again, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, colleagues, for your time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Attao. Just a reminder that a conference committee report is not subject to amendments. You either agree to it or you do not. The floor is still open for 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 on the motion to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-2 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present voting “yes,” Conference Committee Report No. 24-2 is hereby adopted. Thank you, colleagues. There being no item under Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, we now proceed to Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. RES. NO. 24-6:

C. RES. NO. 24-6: To recognize and commend the late Melvin Wayne Camacho Sakisat, for his exemplary service and selfless dedication to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend the heartfelt condolences of the House of Representatives to his bereaved family.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt C. RES. NO. 24-6 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being nothing further under Resolution Calendar, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24- 87:

H. B. No. 24-87: To require an independent valuation of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), restore constitutional and audit oversight, modernize

procurement and review procedures, protect ratepayers, and clarify the economic framework for any privatization transaction; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no objection 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. 24-87, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-87 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-88:

H. B. No. 24-88: To mandate that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation undergo a comprehensive, independent, third-party utility expert audit; to require a formal Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission audit-review docket and

transparent public review process; to require an enforceable corrective action plan, a ratepayer impact matrix, and a public audit implementation dashboard; to impose strict timelines and narrowly limited extensions; to require mandatory decennial audits; to establish compliance reporting and civil penalties for missed deadlines payable to the CNMI Treasury; 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. 24-88, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-88 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1:

H. B. No. 24-91, HS1: To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the First Senatorial District.

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. 24-91, HS1, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-91, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of S. B. NO. 24-19:

S. B. NO. 24-19: To amend 9 CMC § 2208(d) to authorize motor vehicle licensure to all residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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 on S. B. NO. 24-19, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, Senate Bill NO. 24-19 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading on H. B. NO. 24-72, HS1:

H. B. NO. 24-72, HS1: 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.

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. 24-72, HS1, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-72, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-85:

H. B. NO. 24-85: To amend 3 CMC § 1205, relating to the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission’s authority to assess fees for translation services; to establish a revolving fund; 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. 24-85, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

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

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-85 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-92:

H. B. NO. 24-92: To appropriate \$63,000.00 from Schedule A of Public Law 24-20 that was vetoed for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts; 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. 24-92, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-92 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1:

H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1: To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund infrastructure projects in the Second Senatorial District.

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. 24-89, HS1, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-89, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and, Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and, Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. NO. 24-102:

H. B. NO. 24-102: To amend the Fire Safety Code to apply the International Fire Code as the guiding standard in the Commonwealth.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. NO. 24-102, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Yes
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	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Absent (Excused)
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (Excused)

¹Members 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 Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 18 members present, House Bill NO. 24-102 hereby passes the House. Thank you, members. We now proceed to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and the floor is open. I recognize Representative Daniel Aquino.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to thank my Chairman, Representative John Paul Sablan, for his support. Every time we go out cleaning, it is a difficult task. We do it Monday through Saturday. And I want to thank our respective staff for all their efforts. And I want to, most especially, from the Chairman and myself, we would like to

thank the great people of Precinct 2. Thank you. Thank you to all the people for all the work that you do to keep our village clean. Thank you so much.

The chair recognized Representatives Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pretty sure that the members of the House have already received the press release from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's rate hike on the fuel adjustment charge. I would like to make a statement to that I came up with. The Commonwealth Utility Corporation has now publicly confirmed that the fuel adjustment charge increased from 19 cents per kilowatt to 22 cents per kilowatt, effective March 16, 2026. The Commonwealth Utility Corporation states that this increase follows the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission order lifting the fuel adjustment charge tariff freeze and reflects changes in fuel costs. This means that the fuel adjustment charge is no longer just a possibility for a future increase. It has already increased. The fuel adjustment charge is the fuel cost portion of the electric bill and is separate from the base rate. According to the Commonwealth Utility Corporation, the base rate itself did not increase. For rate payers, the increase equals 2 cents per kilowatt hour on a practical level. That means about \$11.85 per month for a 500 kilowatt-hour customer, about \$17.77 more for a 750 kilowatt-hour customer, and about \$23.69 more for a 1,000 kilowatt customer. That is before taxes, penalties, water charges, and other bill items. The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission order matters because it removed the freeze that had been holding the fuel adjustment charge down pending the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's fuel cost reconciliation filing. Once that freeze was lifted, effective March 15, 2026, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation was able to adjust the fuel adjustment charge upward again, based on fuel cost calculation. The same order also states that future fuel adjustment charge calculations would exceed 24 cents per kilowatt hour. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation must seek commission approval before putting that higher amount into effect. One point that should be clarified publicly is the rate history. The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission references a frozen fuel adjustment charge rate of 21 cents per kilowatt hour beginning March 1, 2025. While the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's press release lists the immediate previous fuel adjustment charge as 19 cents per kilowatt hour for the period June 1, 2025, through March 15, 2026. Those two figures are not necessarily irreconcilable because the freeze order allowed reduction below the initial frozen level. But the public deserves a clear month-to-month explanation. As for the current Middle East situation, the direct impact on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ratepayer is not political rhetoric but fuel price exposure. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands depends heavily on imported fuel. When there is conflict, increased shipping risks, higher insurance costs, or supply disruptions in global oil and refined fuel markets, the islands that depend on imported fuel have to pay more to replace it and face higher fuel adjustment charges. That does not mean every world event immediately appears on the next bill. But it does mean our power system remains vulnerable to external shocks we do not control. The larger policy lesson is straightforward. When the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands remains dependent on the imported fuel, families, businesses, and public facilities remain exposed to world events, freight volatility, and fuel market instability. Greater transparency in the fuel adjustment charge calculation, stronger oversight, and long-term movement toward reliable local or regional energy diversification are essential to protect the rate payers. The bottom line is this: the fuel adjustment charge has officially increased. The confirmed rate is 22 cents per kilowatt hour, effective March 16, 2026, up from 19 cents per kilowatt hour. The increase follows

the lifting of the fuel adjustment charge rate freeze, and it is attributed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to higher fuel costs. The Middle East situation does not create the fuel adjustment charge by itself, but it can intensify the global fuel pressure or fuel cost pressure that eventually flows into the fuel adjustment charge for the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands' rate payers. This is coming from the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's lifting of the fuel adjustment charge freeze for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. On another note, the House passage of House Bill No. 24-87 and House Bill No. 24-88 shows why ratepayer protection and Commonwealth Utilities Corporation accountability cannot wait. The reason for the lifting of the fuel adjustment charge freeze, followed immediately by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's increase in the fuel adjustment charge, effective March 16, 2026, confirms exactly why stronger legislative oversight is needed. Now, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission lifted the freeze effective March 15, 2026, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation then announced the fuel adjustment charge increase from 19 cents to 22 cents per kilowatt, effective the very next day. House passage of House Bill No. 24-87 and House Bill No. 24-88 does not automatically cancel or roll back this fuel adjustment charge increase. What these bills do is strengthen the Commonwealth's ability to demand transparency, independent review, and ratepayer-centered accountability at a time when the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation customers are, once again, being exposed to fuel cost volatility and utility decision-making. The fuel adjustment charge issue is not only about global fuel prices. It is about governance, reconciliation, transparency, and whether ratepayers are being asked to shoulder costs without a full public accounting. This is why these bills matter. They are structural responses to a real and present problem. In plain terms, the fuel adjustment charge increase makes House Bill No. 24-87 and House Bill No. 24-88 more important, not less. The recent actions of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation show that family, business, and publication remain vulnerable to fuel-related rate pressure. The public is entitled to know what costs are incurred. Whether these costs are prudently managed; whether fuel procurement and rate calculations were handled properly; and whether ratepayers are being charged only what is lawful, necessary, and justified. The Commonwealth should not normalize future increases without a stronger factual record, better outside scrutiny, and a transparent process that places the ratepayer's interest first. This is the broader significance of House Bill No. 24-87 and House Bill No. 24-88. The bottom line is the fuel adjustment charge increase is the immediate event. House Bill No. 24-87 and House Bill No. 24-88 are the accountability response. The public should expect full transparency, independent review, and a clear demonstration that ratepayers' interests come first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in line with Representative Aldan's concern of the fuel adjustment charge price increase, as I am sure every single member here has received calls from our constituents regarding the cost of fuel at our pump stations today. It is very unfortunate, but external circumstances are dictating the cost of fuel. And the argument has always been the fuel that are in the pumps today were purchased at a different rate. I believe we have worked with the contracted commerce. And also the agent's office, if we can get this taken care of and see where we can cap things. Because if fuel prices are going up, it is going to get more dangerous for our people; because commodities are going to start increasing in costs; because they are going to tag on the fuel costs in transporting these commodities over

here. So, we respectfully are asking, as a body, that the Attorney General's office along with Commerce work together in making sure that the price gouging does not start happening for our people. Because the cost of living in itself right now, with the fuel adjustment charge going up to 22 cents, our residents are going to start arguing to try to spread their little amount of dollars, even thinner today. Now, they are going to have to worry about the cost of power, the cost of fuel, and the cost of food – should it trickle down to the food level. If we can get them to start making sure that price gouging does not start happening regarding our commodities at the grocery stores, we are going to be in a bigger mess. If we just passed legislation from a conference committee that is going to address our tourism struggles, and if this trickle effect goes down now, we are going to have to figure out how to find money to address the cost of living in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Increasing to match the standard based on the cost in bringing these commodities into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. And I know that the members continue to talk about resilient living regarding food security, farming, fishing, and even hunting for what we can get out from our land. We need to make sure that we are on top of this – and the Attorney General's and Commerce's office are on top of this. We can make sure the price gouging does not happen because it is going to be a bigger impact. If we thought that tourism is an emergency and price gouging starts happening regarding our regular commodities, that is going to be a bigger emergency. If we were worried about the Nutritional Assistance Program, \$1 million was able to, at least, pay for half of the Nutritional Assistance Program's recipients. But to maintain the cost of commodities is going to be that much more difficult now that we are talking about an even bigger population here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I just wanted to point that out and put it on record, Mr. Speaker, so that our constituents know that we are working to make sure that the costs are minimal if there are any changes. But to also know that their elected leaders are not just sitting back and just watching this happen. We are doing our part. We may not be out there screaming about it, but we are doing our part from our respective offices. We just want to put that on record that we want to make sure we protect our consumers as well, which is our everyday people. And back to the override, Mr. Speaker, if I may be allowed to speak a little bit. This is coming from the Youth Congress. If there is any Youth Congress legislation that has made it passed the respective houses and signed into law, it has always been legislations that is about preservation. One of the biggest legislations that the Youth Congress came forward with was the taking legislation. The House of Representatives and the Senate of the 12th Legislature passed that regarding conservation of fishes that we have in our oceans here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Those members of the Youth Congress are the adults today that are fishing out there, or teaching the students how to fish. Their vision as members of that Youth Congress is coming in fruition today. We have the Tasi To Table Group; most of the members of Tasi To Table were members of that Youth Congress. With the override on Senate Bill No. 24-04 is preservation by this Youth Congress that is presented to this body, and this body passed it. Unfortunately, it was vetoed into law. But our Governor, Representative Apatang at the time, and I may misquote him, but I remember him saying that if it is for conservation, and for our kids and their future, then we should assist them in making sure that their vision of tomorrow is protected today. We are not going against Governor Apatang and the message he sent here on this veto message, and he is not going to call Representative Daniel Aquino "Mr. Override" or "Good morning, Override". It is a reflection of our youth thinking of their future. If you look at the history of any other – aside from the ones I have mentioned – the Youth Congress have come up with a lot of legislations that talks about preservation. We got to be mindful that the members of the Youth Congress are not necessarily non-majority delegates. A majority of the House of

Representatives and the Senate are non-majority delegates. The members of the Youth Congress are not. They are a vast group of different cultures that call the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands home. And they have this vision of their future. Our action is to protect their future today just like the words of then Representative Apatang in the 12th Legislature is, we protect the future of our kids then, because they know what is good for them. And these kids have already presented something like Representative Manglona have mentioned. It is their vision, they see it, and we are helping them get to that vision. Again, we can use Tasi To Table as a good example of that vision. Let us continue to support our youth, whether it is from the Youth Congress or the voices of those that are underserved. We work with them; we serve everybody; we represent everybody. Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, for allowing me the time to speak.

The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in case not everyone understood the memo, but the cost of goods will rise and I will tell you why. Tipple B has sent me a memo that they have increased their transportation costs. So, imagine what all of these stores, or everything that is being shipped over here to be sold, to be used for personal reason. It has already increased. Is this going to get worse? If this Middle East crisis goes on much longer than it needs to, it will get a lot more expensive. We do need to start looking within ourselves to make sure that, as Representative Attao said, that the Attorney General's office and the consumer protection agencies that falls under the Attorney General's office has to go out there and do their due diligence to ensure that no businesses are price gouging. And at the same time, this kind of situation requires everybody's effort. When anybody sees something wrong that is going to cause the loyal customers, or honest customers, to pay extra price because somebody else is stealing something. For example, utility, this is not just the government not paying its bills. This is also about people not paying their bills because they are illegal tapping. In one situation that I heard about two weeks ago from somebody that works at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the amount of people and businesses that are illegally tapped into the utility grid is crazy because enforcement is not there to actually go and find out. And these guys have been going out there discovering a lot of theft, which means that we, as the loyal rate payers, are actually picking up the tab for them while they are having the time of their lives. If everybody wants a stable rate, or stable price, on any products, goods, or services, we have to do our part to report to the Attorney General, report to the consumer protection branch. We have to do our part. The Legislation is not here to solve everybody's problems because there is no way that is going to happen. We need everybody's effort. This is to the public, if you want to ensure that you are not being taken advantage of, make sure that you report. Because at the end of the day, it would only benefit you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is so much happening in the world that is really affecting us. And we always talk about our local government and what we can do, where we can raise taxes, what we are not doing better enough of, and what we are not considering. But we seem to forget that we still have a covenant. And I am going to speak about the portion of that. Because with the Commonwealth 250 coming up and Chairman Malcom's agenda that will discuss the importance of that, I think it is only natural that we also put this on

record so, big brother, who is watching, which I am sure they are always watching us because we are not doing enough of what they want, I am going to have to disagree with that. I think they need to be doing a little bit more. Too often, decisions about our future are made in rooms where our islands cannot be found on the map. Yet, the people who live on these islands carry a history that stretches back thousands of years. I am not just a legislator of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I am a mother, a woman of the Marianas, and a voice for the people who call these islands home. Before I speak about policy or strategy, we must first remember who we are. I come from a people whose ancestors crossed the Pacific guided only by stars. My people built villages, raised families, and cared for these islands long before the modern world discovered them. We learned that the lands and oceans are not possessions. They are our responsibilities. Our survivors, our ancestors, survived colonization, war, displacement, and the loss of lands that had sustained families for generations. Yet through every hardship, they protected something that could not be taken—our identity, our culture, and our connection to these islands. We may be a small island in a vast ocean, but we are not a small people. We will not accept small considerations in decisions that shape our future. We stand here today between the ancestors who entrusted us with these islands and the children who inherit them. My responsibility as a mother, as a leader, and as a daughter of the Marianas is to ensure that what was entrusted to us is never lost. But that responsibility requires me to speak honestly. Once again, too often, decisions about our future are made thousands of miles away by people who do not know who the people of the Northern Mariana Islands are. In some cases, these decision-makers do not even know where our islands are located. Decisions made at that distance impact and shape whether our economy survives, whether our families remain, and whether our children inherit a future here at all. So, today, I am here to remind them, and I am here for us. I am here to remind those in power deciding on whether or not we live or die. We are a people first. A people with our own constitution, our own history, and our own responsibility to protect the principles of our covenant and our constitution, we ask those who govern from afar to remember them as well and uphold them with the same seriousness and respect. The Northern Mariana Islands are not simply distant territories in the United States. We are American soil in the heart of the Indo-Pacific, living at the crossroads of global security, regional stability, and the future of the Pacific. Our islands sit thousands of miles from Washington, yet only hours from some of the most strategically significant regions in the world. The decisions made about our islands are shaped by global geopolitics, shifting alliances, and the growing importance of the Pacific in an international security level. But while these islands may appear in strategic maps as locations on airfields, ports, and military planning, they are, first and foremost, a home to our people. If these islands are critical to national security, then the people who live in them must be treated as critical to that mission. To understand why that matters, we must remember, once again, who we are and our history. During World War II, these islands became battlefields. Our grandparents endured bombardment, displacement, and encampment. Entire villages were uprooted, and the lands that had sustained families for generations were taken for military use. Across centuries, our islands experienced multiple colonial administrations. Yet the people of the Marianas endured. Military planners see the Pacific through maps of distances, runways, and strategic positions. But the people of the Marianas carry a difficult map, one held in memory. Our maps mark fishing grounds our elders taught us to respect. It marks villages where generations were raised; it marks sacred places where ancestors are buried. Land is not simply property; land is memory; land is identity; land is our responsibility. As a mother and a woman of the Marianas, I carry that responsibility every day. Our constitution and our covenant are not simply documents. They exist to protect our families, our culture, and the future of our children.

Every decision we make must answer one simple question: Will it protect the children of tomorrow? But we must also be honest with ourselves. Some of the struggles our Commonwealth faces were worsened by failures within our own local politics, by corruption, by personal enrichment, and by a weak system of accountability. But we are correcting those failures. We are the leaders of today that are committed to building stronger institutions, enforcing accountability, and delivering long-term solutions that protect everyone, not just the few. But accountability must exist on both sides of this partnership. So, at the same time, I must acknowledge the profound impact that federal political decisions have had on our Commonwealth and our Marianas. The political struggles that shape policy in Washington, whether between parties or administrations, often determine the economic realities facing our islands. The people of the Marianas are not concerned with partisan battles. Our priority is simple. We want our people to thrive, we want our economy to grow, we want our communities to grow, we want our communities to be secure, and we want our children to have a future in these islands that our ancestors protected. No community stands alone. No island bears a greater burden than another. Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands together form the Commonwealth – one Marianas. The district I represent does not matter. The titles that we hold do not matter. What matters is that we serve one people and protect one future. That future requires real solutions. For example, maybe we can bring this to the federal government. Federal grant reform, removing matching requirements so the Commonwealth can fully access investments in disaster preparedness, more broadband, and environmental resilience. A cooperative federal-local immigration framework that can restore regional visa flexibility, allowing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marianas, to strengthen tourism while maintaining national security. These are practical, achievable measures that ensure national defense strengthens, not strains, the communities that sustain it. Like many islands, the Marianas depends heavily on imported fuel to power our homes, hospitals, and economy. In a region shaped by geopolitical tension and fragile supply chains, energy security is not simply an economic issue. It is a matter of sustainability and survival of our people. Together, these solutions ensure that national defense investments strengthen not only military readiness but also the communities that make readiness possible. Because for the people of the Marianas, self-determination is not a political slogan. It is the difference between survival and disappearance. I believe in partnership, our history, our covenant, and our shared security interest that binds us to the United States. We will stand with America and the Pacific. But we will not disappear within it. For thousands of years, our people have lived on these islands. Not by chance, but by resilience, stewardship, and an unbroken commitment to one another. And with that same courage and unity, we are not simply hoping our children will remain. We are entrusting that they will. So I urge our Governor, our Attorney General, and everybody. I urge the military to come back and have more discussions with us because I did not ask for a war. I do not care about the politics that happened in the United States. I care for our Marianas and how we move forward so that we can thrive. That is what I care about. I do not care about Republicans. I do not care about Democrat politics in Washington, DC. That is not my business. My business is my people. So, if you are watching, Big Brother, make that very clear—I hope you heard that. Because we are tired of repeating ourselves every single time. While we are taking our local money and moving it for tourism sustainability, we cannot control our airspace. We are still sitting on sabotage. You are still debating about policies that affect whether my island lives or dies. So, if you want to have real communication, real conversation, the 24th Legislature and the Speaker of the House and our Chairman of the Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee are open to meeting with anybody, at this point, that is willing to work for the survival of our Marianas. Thank you. I yield my time.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to remind the community of the fiesta for the Santa Soledad Parish happening in Kagman this Sunday. Please join us if you have the time. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the members of the Judicial and Governmental Operations that we will be calling for a meeting next week for some legislation. If any of the members want to add anything in to the agenda. My apologies, we were supposed to schedule it this week, but we are still waiting for some comments to come our way before we get the call out. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Malcom Jason Omar.

Representative Malcom Jason Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next week, we celebrate or commemorate the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Covenant Day. I am just sharing the Commonwealth of Jubilee flyer that is supposed to kick off on Sunday. It is a three-day event to coincide with Covenant Day, and this is in line with the Federal Executive Order. We have locations at the Civic Center on Sunday, also at Fishing Base, Garapan, and the American Memorial Park Amphitheater. The flyers are being shared through our social media outlets, through everyone's offices, and through the general public. Happy Covenant Day, everyone. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you. In line with Women's Month, the 12th Annual Women's Summit will be celebrated on March 26, 2026, at 08:00 a.m. at the Multipurpose Center. Everyone is invited. And the proclamation for Autism Awareness Month will be celebrated on March 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza. Everyone is invited in support of Autism Awareness Month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. This Thursday is the San Jose Fiesta in Oleai. The mass is at 4:00 p.m. That is tomorrow. Please, if you have the time, come over to another beautiful precinct. Thank you. I recognize Representative Julie Ogo.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As much as I want to invite everyone to the Gilita Festival that is happening this weekend, we are booked out on hotels and car rentals. But next year, plan ahead. Call my office and I can assist in booking your lodging and car rental. So, those that are coming down and were able to secure, welcome to the Gilita Festival. Thank you.

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 to adjourn was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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 the House Session on February 25, 2026:

H. B. NO. 24-96: To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governors Communication (House) 24-103, to the Marianas Visitors Authority for tourism recovery initiatives. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, 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, 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, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) Action: Introduced on February 25, 2026; placed on the Bill Calendar; and passed First and Final Reading without amendments.

H. B. NO. 24-97: To exempt the Commonwealth Ports Authority from the obligation to remit the one percent (1%) Public Auditor Fee pertaining to seaport revenues. REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Ways and Means on February 25, 2026.

H. B. NO. 24-98: To amend Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code to provide Business Gross Revenue Tax relief for taxpayers operating at a net loss under the Northern Mariana Islands Territorial Income Tax; and for other purposes. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 24-99: To amend Title 6, Division 1, §1609, Theft of Utility Services, to provide a permissive inference of intent under specified circumstances while preserving due process protections; and for other purposes. REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-100: To amend the statutory language governing dormant and unclaimed accounts to clarify the regulatory provisions regarding dormancy periods, the perpetual right of owners to claim funds, and the administration of escheated funds. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Commerce.

H. B. NO. 24-101: To name the structure for the CNMI Women's Association Center as the "Felicidad Taman Ogumoro Women's Development Center"; and for other purposes. REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*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, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Ralph N. Yumul) Action: Introduced on February 25, 2026; placed on the Bill Calendar; and passed First and Final Reading without amendments.

H. L. B. NO. 24-47: To appropriate One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the continued operation and regulatory oversight of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission; and for other purposes. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026.

H. L. B. NO. 24-48: To re-appropriate funds under Section 2(t)(d) of Saipan Local Law 23-04 (Project Code 7190M); and for other purposes. REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO and REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*). Introduced on February 25, 2026.

[Added-2/25/2026] H. L. B. NO. 24-49: To appropriate Ninety Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Dollars (\$99,625.00) for Medical Subsistence, Municipal Scholarship, and operations of the Mayor of Rota. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026.

[Added-2/25/2026] H. L. B. NO. 24-50: To appropriate local funds from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2; and for other purposes. REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026.

[Added-2/25/2026] H. L. B. NO. 24-51: To appropriate Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) for the Rota Aging Program and the Rota DCCA Flame Tree Arts. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*). Introduced on February 25, 2026.

H. RES. NO. 24-25: To Congratulate and Honor all the women in the Commonwealth as we celebrate their contributions and achievements during the month of March 2026 proclaimed as CNMI Women's Month and March 8th as International Women's Day. REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, 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, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) Action: Introduced on February 25, 2026; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments.

H. RES. NO. 24-26: To recognize Aria Keilbach for her esteemed accomplishments as Miss Northern Marianas Earth 2025 representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Miss Earth. REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*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, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, and Ralph N. Yumul). Action: Introduced on February 25, 2026; placed on the Resolution Calendar; and adopted without amendments.

LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE TRACKER (Informational)

Veto Override / Reconsideration Deadlines

(Article II, Section 7(c), NMI Constitution)

GOV. COMM. 24-105: (1/21/2026) Informing the House that the Governor vetoed S. B. No. 24-04, entitled, “To advance indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian language education in the CNMI.”

Referred to: House Committee on Education on February 9, 2026.

Deadline: 3/22/2026.

Executive Appointments Requiring Legislative Confirmation

GOV. COMM. 24-106: (1/22/2026) Informing the House of his renomination of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the First Senatorial District.

Referred to: House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on February 9, 2026.

Deadline: 4/22/2026.

GOV.COMM. 24-107: (1/22/2026) Informing the House of his renomination of Mr. James S. Sirok to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representing the Third Senatorial District.

Referred to: House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on February 9, 2026.

Deadline: 4/22/2026.

Judicial Rule Review Period

None pending.