



HOUSE JOURNAL THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2026

1st Day, Third Special Session

Thursday, June 18, 2026

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Third Special Session on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 10:08 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 Aldan	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	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

¹Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Office 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.

Acting Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, we have 19 members present and 1 member absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 19 members present, a quorum is established. Let the record reflect that Representative Roman Benavente is excused for today's session. I now recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion to amend today's agenda.

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

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 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	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

¹Members participating electronically were connected via Microsoft Teams in accordance with Rule IV, Section 1 of the Office 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.

Acting Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk, With all 19 members present voting "yes," the motion carries. We now proceed to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is now open to receive comments. Please state your name and the entity you represent, you have five minutes. If you have prepared statements, please submit them to the Sergeant-at-Arms for forwarding to the Clerk's office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Acting Clerk announced the following House Journal:

4th Day, Third Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2026

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt 4th Day, Third Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2026. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt 4th Day, Third Regular Session Journal – March 18, 2026 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair proceeded to Item No. 5, Introduction of Bills, and opened the floor for introduction of unnumbered House Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

There being no introduction of unnumbered 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. 24-59: To re-appropriate Eight Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Three Dollars and Fifty-Four Cents (\$8,483.54) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-27 Section 2(B)(5)(ii); Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-23 Section 2(e); Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$17,995.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 24-14 Section 2(a); Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 22-10 Section 2(B)(20)(B)(i); Twenty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Forty-Seven Cents (\$27,166.47) allotted under Saipan Local Law 18-17 Section 2(d); and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) allotted under Saipan Local Law 23-10 Section 2(a); and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*)

The Chair opened the floor for introduction of unnumbered House Local Bills and recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Mr. Speaker, may I request for a short recess?

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:15 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:17 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were still under House Local Bills. Are there any unnumbered House Local Bills for introduction? I recognize Representative Ralph Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul formally introduced the following bill:

[ADDED-6/18/2026] H. L. B. NO. 24-60: To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59. **Introduced by: REP. RALPH N. YUMUL** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

There being no further introduction of unnumbered House Local Bills and no item under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and opened the floor for introduction of unnumbered resolutions.

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS:

House Resolutions:

None

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

There being no introduction of unnumbered resolutions, the Chair proceeded to Item No 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Acting Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Acting Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-147: (5/14/2026) Informing the House that he signed into law H. L. B. No. 24-53, S1, *(To appropriate \$220,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Saipan Local Law No. 24-28**. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-148: **Executive Order No. 2026-005** — *Declaration of Price Freeze* (issued April 11, 2026); effective until rescinded or until the declaration of emergency or disaster is terminated.

GOV. COMM. 24-149: (5/26/2026) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Frederika Maria T. Diaz, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-150: (5/29/2026) From Governor Apatang requesting the Legislature's collaboration to enact a limited, targeted amendment to certain administrative provisions of Public Law 24-20 (the Revised Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act) to afford the Executive Branch the fiscal flexibility necessary to manage cash flow in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Sinlaku. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-151: (6/2/2026) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Nicholas Thomas Zazzi, Assistant Attorney General, at the Office of the Attorney General to receive an annual salary of \$72,500. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-152: (6/8/2026) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Manolo B. Reyes (Highway Engineer III, Department of Public Works, Highway Section) to receive annual compensation exceeding the \$65,175 cap set by 1 CMC § 8248(a), to accommodate overtime for federally funded Super Typhoon Sinlaku recovery efforts. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-153: (6/8/2026) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Sesonando Jerry E. Tolentino (Highway Engineer II, Department of Public Works, Highway Section) to receive annual compensation exceeding the \$65,175 cap set by 1 CMC § 8248(a), to accommodate overtime for federally funded Super Typhoon Sinlaku recovery efforts. [*For Info*]

GOV. COMM. 24-154: (6/11/2026) **Executive Order No. 2026-009** (issued June 11, 2026) — Renewing the Declaration of State of Significant Emergency for the Commonwealth pursuant to NMI Const. art. III, § 10 and 1 CMC § 20144,

continuing emergency response and restoration efforts following Super Typhoon Sinlaku for an additional thirty (30) days.

[ADDED-06/18/2026] Gov. Comm. 24-155: (6/17/2026) From Governor Apatang transmitting a proportionate FY 2026 budget reduction for the Executive Branch pursuant to 1 CMC § 7605(c)(4) and P.L. 24-20, § 705.1, reducing the expenditure ceiling to \$121, 428,348. [For Info]

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

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Governor's Communication 24-154, regarding Executive Order No. 2026-009, I would like to request that the administration appoint a dedicated public information officer to provide regular updates on the ongoing declaration and the status of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, including the restoration of trash collection, to ensure the public is well informed. Currently, as you know, we are all getting calls, and sometimes we cannot answer the public's questions. Part of this executive order is to inform and have a constant update, whether it is via Facebook Live or not just a piece of document that someone has to read. It would be nice if someone came and spoke for administration. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to reiterate what Representative Ralph Yumul mentioned. Even for ourselves on the recent floor, we have many constituents that are calling and inquiring when the debris removals are going to take place. Because from the last issuance of the scheduling, I believe that was disseminated also on social media. It may mention that, for example, on the northern side, we were scheduled for June 10. We are currently on June 18. So, there is a lot of information that we are not privy to for some reason. I just wanted to recognize what Representative Yumul mentioned and urge the administration to pass down the information to us and maybe reasons for the delay so that we can go back to our respective constituents to give them that necessary information that they are inquiring about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the debris removal, a lot of it is just taking because the contractors are actually slow. There is not much diverse or heavy equipment out there. They are actually trying to—without Chairman Sablan's bill—to give money or funding for heavy equipment. That is the issue, and that is why it is taking time. They just finished yesterday, so it is a slow process. But eventually we will get there. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are all in line, Mr. Speaker, with Representative Yumul and echoing a lot of the governor's communications informing us about these executive orders. The one thing I also want to stress is this procurement process. We know that because it is declared a disaster, it has not been declared over yet. We are still in this recovery process. It seems like the procurement process is taking a long, long time. Having no equipment is one thing, but going through a process for procurement is another. What I do not want to see is all these change orders, again, happening during a time when their recovery plan should have already been established right after it hit and we passed relief. So, I would like to request that whatever procurement bids that they are doing, if there are any or any changes to that, I think the public should know about it. Because then, we can also have these small businesses think about how they would try to help and provide their assistance. It seems like it is the same pool of people, every single time, doing the same work after every disaster. But there are a lot of people that are waiting to assist. I think there is a grant—I am still waiting on that email communication. But you have a lot of unemployment graduates. Also, you have people wanting to find jobs. They are willing to go as far as assisting and picking up the trash, getting a trailer to help with the debris removal. If that process needs to be fixed, somehow, at the procurement level, say something so that we can figure out a way to think outside the box. I mean, we cannot keep doing it the same way, and then this whole project becomes a nightmare. It is just sitting there, and it keeps piling up, and piling up, and piling up. If the governor can be so kind as to let his team know to follow up with those phone calls. People are calling EOC to find out what is going on with certain procurement concerns, and there is no follow-up. If it is a yes, if it is a no, something. But having no explanation and just going dead silent is not a way to fix a problem. Thank you. I yield my time.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to agree with the Floor Leader. There is a need for our central government to revisit our procurement regulations. And perhaps try to mirror it, for example, with what we see through the federal procurement wrecks. Most especially with an emergency situation like this. After a very strong super typhoon, we are very limited. As you all know, we had appropriated funding to the delegation for purposes of disaster relief. And when I was trying to acquire some equipment, I was told by our procurement office that there is a limitation below 50,000. And acquiring equipment is very expensive. And this is something that we need to revisit. Our local state government, with our procurement regulations, and maybe strengthen it, put more extra provisions that should the head of state declare a state of emergency, these thresholds are lifted to allow the procurement of equipment to quickly recover and clean our islands in a shorter time frame, rather than a longer time frame. Thank you.

Pursuant to the action taken, Governor's Communication 24-150, referencing, "(5/29/2026) From Governor Apatang requesting the Legislature's collaboration to enact a limited, targeted amendment to certain administrative provisions of Public Law 24-20 (the Revised Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations Act) to afford the Executive Branch the fiscal flexibility necessary to manage cash flow in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Sinlaku. [For Info]", was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means; and Governor's Communication 24-155, referencing, "(6/17/2026) From Governor Apatang transmitting a proportionate FY 2026 budget reduction for the Executive Branch pursuant to 1 CMC § 7605(c)(4) and P.L. 24-20, § 705.1, reducing the

expenditure ceiling to \$121, 428,348. [For Info]”, was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Acting Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 24-98: (4/7/2026) Returning H. B. No. 24-30, entitled, “To appropriate funds from Accounts 1501B and 1501S to support the operational and personnel needs of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and to direct the Secretary of Finance to establish and maintain a separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax Account for the purpose of segregating and reserving PSS’s designated share.”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on December 1, 2025, in the form of ***H. B. No. 24-30, SD1 to read: “To appropriate funds from Accounts 1501B and 1501S to support the operational and personnel needs of the CNMI Cannabis Commission and to direct the Secretary of Finance to establish and maintain a separate sub-account within the Cannabis Tax*** House of Representatives Agenda First Day, Third Special Session, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Legislature Thursday, June 18, 2026 Page 3 ***Account for the purpose of segregating and reserving PSS’s designated share, and for other purposes.” [For action on Senate amendments]*** Note: Read on May 22, 2026; the Chair ordered that the communication remain on the agenda.

SEN. COMM. 24-103: (5/29/2026) Informing the House of the Senate’s Conferees to the Conference Committee on H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1, SD1, 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 Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.*”. [Chair: Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider; Member(s): Sen(s). Donald M. Manglona, and Francisco Q. Cruz; Alternate Member: Sen. Corina L. Magofna]. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-104: (5/29/2026) Informing the House of the Senate’s Conferees to the Conference Committee on H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1, SD1, 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 Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.*”. [Chair: Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider; Member(s): Sen(s). Donald M. Manglona, and Francisco Q. Cruz; Alternate Member: Sen. Corina L. Magofna]. [For info]

SEN. COMM. 24-105: (5/29/2026) Informing the House of the Senate’s Conferees to the Conference Committee on H. B. NO. 24-96, SD1, entitled, “*To appropriate*

\$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication (House) 24-103. ”.
[Chair: Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider; Member(s): Sen(s). Donald M. Manglona, and Francisco Q. Cruz; Alternate Member: Sen. Corina L. Magofna]. [For info]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to accept Senate Communication No. 24-98, 24-103 through 24-105. 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. 24-98, 24-103 through 24-105 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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. With no objection from the members and with your authority, Mr. Speaker, I request that Senate Communication No. 24-98, referring to House Bill No. 24-30, be placed on the bill calendar for a later action. I believe it was amended by the Senate and there are pending communication from the Public School System and Micronesian Legal Services regarding their grantors allowing them to accept funds that come from cannabis funding source.

Several members on the floor voiced, “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, members. To further clarify, the last session we kept this on the agenda to get further clarification if they would be negatively impacted. Fortunately, they will not be. But we would like to get the documents in writing to back it up. With that, Senate Communication 24-98 will be placed on the bill calendar. But not for action until the next session, pending those communications. Colleagues, are there any further discussions under Senate Communications?

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

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Acting Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 24-92: (5/22/2026) From Representative Roy C.A. Ada informing the Speaker that he will be on personal leave on 5/22/2026, and requesting to be excused from scheduled meetings or sessions during this period. *[For info]*

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Acting Clerk announced the following communications from Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-32: (3/27/2026) From the Department of Public Works (DPW) submitting *CNMI 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for the period of FY 2027 to 2030. [For Info]*

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. If we can place this with Transportation and Infrastructure to review this and make sure that they include certain roads that have already met the population in regard to the Federal Highway Administration. So that they would be included in the submission for future funding roads within the CNMI. In our case, one of the roads that has met it but has not been included over the years is the Chalan Galaide Road. It has not been included, and we want to make sure that when we submit this or comment to the Department of Public Works that they include that road. And I believe Route 36 is done. But the remainder of that road will be finalized probably within this year. There are other roads within Saipan. I know there are roads on Rota and Tinian that also need federal funding. We should make sure that they are also included in the next submission for the Department of Public Works to the Federal Highway Administration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Pursuant to the action taken, Dept./Agency. 24-32, referencing, “(3/27/2026) From the Department of Public Works (DPW) submitting CNMI 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for the period of FY 2027 to 2030. [For Info]”, was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Acting Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 24-107: (6/3/2026) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), Acting Managing Director Judy C. Torres, providing updates on tourism conditions and reaffirming support for the appropriation of \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds to MVA under H.B. No. 24-96. *[For Info]*

There being no discussion on the floor and no item under Item No. 12, Reports of Standing Committees, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and recognized the Acting Clerk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

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

C. C. R. NO. 24-3: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1, SD1, 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 Super House of Representatives Agenda First Day, Third Special Session, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Legislature Thursday, June 18, 2026 Page 4 Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.”*. Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1, SD1, CCS1**.

C. C. R. NO. 24-4: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1, SD1, 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 Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”*. Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1, SD1, CCS1**.

C. C. R. NO. 24-5: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-96, SD1, entitled, *“To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication (House) 24-103.”*. Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24- 96, SD1, CCS1**, entitled, *“To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication (House) 24-103, to the Marianas Visitors Authority for tourism stabilization initiatives.”*.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-3:

C. C. R. NO. 24-3: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-89, HS1, SD1, 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 Super House of Representatives Agenda First Day, Third Special Session, 2026 Twenty-Fourth Legislature Thursday, June 18, 2026 Page 4 Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the Second Senatorial District.”. Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24-89, HSI, SD1, CCS1.

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

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your House conference committee met with the Senate conference committee. And just to inform the full body, we did meet and offered our amendments to improve the proposed legislation. To include provisions that provide that should they use these funds for the purpose of Sinlaku recovery and disaster relief, a portion of this money used could be reimbursed by FEMA. Unfortunately, when the House conferee committee offered these improved provisions, Senators from the First and Second Senatorial District had appreciated the noble intent but had appealed to the House conferee committee that we remain with their own Senate version. Therefore, what you see before you, colleagues, is a joint compromise honoring the appeal from the members of the Second Senatorial District. So, as Chairman of the House Conference Committee, I ask for all our members of this August body for their full support on this conference committee report. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Chairman Sablan. Yes, we did have a conference committee and, yes, the main participants reverted to the original intent. Unfortunately, I could not speak on a senatorial district because it is not my senatorial district. But I would hope that between the First and Second Senatorial District that they keep in mind that the Marianas Visitors Authority also put money aside for tourism enhancement. And because this is a very vague bill that says “disaster relief operations and personnel”, that they would be so kind to consider assisting the Marianas Visitors Authority and, Parks and Recreation in their senatorial district as we prepare towards tourism sustainability. It may not sound like much, but when we are scratching for pennies, I would appreciate their support in the First and Second Senatorial District. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Chairman Sablan, and to your team for this discussion – a healthy discussion. I must put it on record that – yes, they do have their autonomy to decide what they want to do with the money – however, I also have an obligation as a chairman for tourism that they also consider in assisting the departments that are tailored and mandated to give that assistance and for tourism stabilization as we move forward. Thank you. I yield my time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: There being no further discussion on the floor, colleagues, a reminder that you either vote “yes” or “no”. Voting “no,” means no amendments. Members, are we ready? Okay, I call for recess.

The House recessed at 10:36 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under discussion on Conference Committee Report No. 24-3. There being no further discussion on the floor, I recognize the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt C. C. R. No. 24- 3 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	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 Malcolm 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	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

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Acting Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members present voting “yes,” Conference Committee Report No. 24-3 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-4:

C. C. R. NO. 24-4: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-91, HS1, SD1, 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 Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”. Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-91, HSI, SD1, CCSI.***

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

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Similar to Conference Committee Report No. 24-3, Conference Committee Report No. 24-4, reporting on House Bill No. 24-91, which reserves \$300 thousand, again, from CEDA funds for the First Senatorial District. Your House conferee committee did offer improved amendments. Although they appealed, again, to us during our conference committee with the noble intent and appreciate the offer of amendments. Otherwise, they have this appealed to us, again, that we remain with the Senate version. And this was the compromise, again, with the House conferee. As the Chairman of the House conferee I, again, appeal to this august body to please support this conference committee report. *Si yu’us ma’asi.*

The Chair recognized Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.

Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people and the municipality leaders of Rota would like to thank the House and Senate conference committees for coming to a compromise on this bill and bringing it back to the floor for everyone to vote “yes” or “no”. And I am pleading to my colleagues here to support this bill. The Municipality of Rota has maintained cleanliness, and we emphasize “*na gâtbo Luta.*” And tourism is one of the most, the top, priority for Rota. We maintain cleanliness, beauty, and pristine around the island. So, with this funding we will continue to maintain that priority. Thank you, again.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-4 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	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 Malcolm 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	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

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.

Acting Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members present voting “yes,” Conference Committee Report No. 24-4 is hereby adopted. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader moved to adopt C. C. R. No. 24-5:

C. C. R. NO. 24-5: Reporting on H. B. NO. 24-96, SD1, entitled, “*To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication (House) 24-103.*”. *Your Conference Committee recommends passage of the bill in the form of H. B. NO. 24- 96, SD1, CCS1, entitled, “To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication (House) 24-103, to the Marianas Visitors Authority for tourism stabilization initiatives.”.*

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

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Conference Committee Report No. 24-5, reporting on House Bill No.24-96, your House conferee committee had worked with the Senate conference committee and we were able to revert back the intent of the full amount to be appropriate to the Marianas Visitors Authority. As we all know, the Senate version amends to provide to each senatorial district municipality. But we concluded with a compromise to revert back this full amount to assist our Marianas Visitors Authority for the stabilization of our tourism industry. And we dedicate these funds to find ways to improve and focusing on bringing in airlines and tourism to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The only difference between the original House bill intent versus this compromise before us, colleagues, is that there was added amendment for \$70 thousand each for the First and Second Senatorial District for their perspective islands for the intent of stabilization of tourism. So, the intent in totality is still intact, reverting back to the House’s original intention. With that, again, the Chair of the House conferee, I appeal to you all to support this conference committee report. *Si yu’us ma’asi.*

The Chair recognized Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar.

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I may ask the Chair on Tourism, what is this stabilization initiatives? Is there anything in document what this tourism stabilization initiative is?

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Representative Rangamar. In the packet, there was a House Communication No. 24-107, dated June 3rd, 2026. And as of right now, in this letter, they talk about these stabilizations. One of them is to keep these airlines and block all of these airline seats. When we speak of stabilization, we also have to talk about the air transportation portion. We have to make sure that there is always this extra money. So that when the tourism flights resume, we have already accommodated all those seats, right? It is unfortunate that we are still kind of doing these ways of procuring these seats. But rest assured that this board is looking at other ways to improve and capture money from just using agencies, right? And we are really trying to figure out how to reinvent a way to get tourists from both east and west. Our problem is that the federal government controls our immigration. The federal government takes time when they give our visa waivers. So, this money here is there. It is in holding. It does not mean that the board is going to spend all of it once. No. The plan must be presented to the board, and the board will improve the plan. But right now, this \$960 thousand will be kept in holding for when it is ready and the stabilization plan has been approved; we have commented on it, and then everybody will know. As a sitting and active chairperson, I would also invite my colleagues to join me when we do attend these meetings. I am more than happy to give you feedback once I get that and be as transparent as possible in regard to reimagining and reinventing what tourism should look like moving forward. The \$960 thousand is a fund that is kept in a chest so that when we are ready to start mobilizing, marketing initiatives, and what have you, there is that extra money. Right now we do not really have anything. Our fear is that, if we do not put money aside and the time comes, we cannot participate. Where are we going? How are we going to get money? But if you are open to suggesting, Representative Rangamar, a stabilization plan we can give to the board, absolutely. I continue to advocate for different types of tourism activities, such as sports tourism and health tourism. A lot of the hotels are reinventing themselves in health and wellness. And we are having these discussions now with a lot of the participating partners in Hanmi on how we can reinvent that. But we must figure out what our target is. It is really hard to compete when we have one United Airlines; we cannot seem to get our brothers and sisters from the other side, like Palau, to bring in their plane. It is just costly. It is really expensive. Our market right now is Asia—Korea, Japan, and China. But we have not seen an influx of Chinese tourists. But we do have a big participating market in Korea and Japan. So, those are the main two, right now, as far as stabilization and our clientele. Once we can have a cohesive plan and really target what we want to do for the next, maybe two or three years, then we have the means to do so. But I am willing and open to work with you. We can go down to Marianas Visitors Authority and figure out a plan for sports tourism. I think our island has the resources, and I think we can accomplish that. Thank you. I hope that answered your question.

The Chair recognized Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar.

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar: Thank you for the clarification.

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

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to thank our chairman for the conference committee. Representative John Paul Sablan, along with our colleagues Representative Ralph Yumul and our Floor Leader Marissa Flores and our Senate counterparts, while we deliberated on these specific pieces of legislation and the previous two that we had adopted already. And we are glad that we got to an agreement that we revert all the funds back to the Marianas Visitors Authority. It was an original intent to include the First and Second Senatorial Districts because they, too, need the assistance to get tourists on their respective islands. And we want feet on the ground over there to generate some revenue for their respective municipalities. But we want to make it clear that those amendments that were made in the Senate—it is not that we disagreed necessarily on them, but there are opportunities for the respective delegation to address those needs that were included in the Senate version. More specifically, \$50 thousand to the Legislative Bureau to get the Legislative Bureau back to 80 hours. And I believe that the Saipan and Northern Islands Delegation put over \$100 thousand just to get our bureau staff up to 70 hours. We respectfully ask that the First and Second Senatorial Districts include that in their resolution. If the intent was to get them up to 80 hours, please include that in the adoption of the resolution while they distribute the funding source for the previous two committee reports we had already adopted. Furthermore, I believe that if there is an addition to the Legislative Bureau, should the resolution include \$50 thousand, \$25 thousand should be from each of the respective senatorial districts. And dedicate that to the assistance of the Legislative Bureau in making sure that our building is safe rather than getting it to the salary level. Obviously, there is a governor’s communication that has been submitted over to the legislature, to the presiding officers of both houses, that we were talking about 64 hours for government employees within the CNMI right now. So, those are the options available for the First and Senatorial Districts to address the amendments made by the Senate through the resolution they will be adopting and how to distribute those funds. We are not going to tell them how to use the money. The money is with them right now. And the intent of the money when it was originally introduced was to assist in the shortage of funding for those for the respective senatorial districts, and we agreed as a body. That is why we had to do it as a House bill rather than a House local bill. The local bill would not muster the constitutional appropriation and would have been recommended for veto by the attorney general’s office. Because those funds were meant just for the Third Senatorial District due to the agreement of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation with the Commonwealth Development Authority back in 1989 through that grant. With that said, we are not going to tell the First and Second Senatorial Districts how to use the funds because it is already there with them. However, the Senate could address the amendments through the resolution. Again, with that said, I thank the chair of the House conferees and the team of the Senate for agreeing that we dedicate these funds to making sure that our CNMI is still a recognized destination by our visitors and the airlines will continue flying this way. Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the members about the Marianas Visitors Authority and the monies that are given to them. Maybe we need to take a break from talking about rebranding. How many tourist attraction sites out there

have been introduced? I do not think there has been any. It has been the same one. Now you can actually see the weaknesses that we have on the island with regard to tourism. Right now, how many tourist sights do you think you can comfortably visit and say, “Wow, this is one spectacular tourist attraction that must be seen”? For me, it is none. “Wow, this is one spectacular tourist attraction site that must be seen?” For me, it is none. Grotto just opened up. The fact is that instead of trying to talk about all these fancy words, we need to introduce more activities for families. We talk about tourists from Asia. What they admire is blue beaches, blue surrounding beaches with white sands. That is what they imagine, not trash by the beach. We need to have more enforcement going around. There are a lot of trash cans, but I see people at the beach using them as basketball hoops and not making them in. I do not want to put any village down, but there are a lot of them out there, including precinct 2. That is what I want to say to the Marianas Visitors Authority board and the Commonwealth Utility Corporation board. You know what? Instead of these fancy trips, take pride in the fact that this guy, Vlad, who was contracted and assisted all the way from Norway. They went to Anatahan. The only time I got to see Anatahan was through that YouTube video. The guy that went there from Norway had 3.55 million subscribers and followers. Maybe instead of doing all these reimagining and reinventing, why do we not invite them here to start doing what they do best? We have these people from sports and tourism—me, as a past judo member, I can tell you that those are what people look for in sports tourism. But if all we are going to do is just keep talking, look around. We need to upgrade our tourist attraction sites. We are competing with the other islands, and it is a no-brainer. Right now, give me one place that any of you can say, “Damn, that is a nice place.” Nothing. It is good now that they put sand towards Beach Road. I just heard that they are saying it is like Waikiki. I wish it could go further down and dredge the beaches and make it more presentable and enjoyable for tourists. That is all I need to say. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Representative Aquino. Yes, while we can agree in some, somewhat. But we need to really take a look at what the big problems are. If we do not have control of our own airspace and can afford to bring in another airline, and we are scratching off our own money for revenue-generating activities, let us first take off the top, which is retirement, and then let us take off 25% for the Public School System. That is already 100%. These discussions should be given also to the federal side. If you want to talk about bringing in tourists, we also want to talk about bringing in investors. But how? Who is going to want to come here for 44 cents on the Commonwealth Utility Corporation? And you are correct. But maybe we need to go back and visit Executive Order 94-3 and just move all the boards and keep our directors. But no one is brave enough to do that yet. Why? It might be because it is an election year, I do not know. I cannot speak for anyone else. I am speaking for myself, and I speak for the people that actually have these conversations with me. And while I do not want to put the Marianas Visitors Authority under the bus, because I am actually their chairman in their committee, I got to help them figure out another way. And if it is to reimagine, reinvent—that is exactly what we are going to do. But we also need the feds to come in here because our covenant was very clear: economic sustainability. I do not see any economic sustainability happening. You took my immigration; now you are controlling my airspace. Let us not forget what just happened. We got a commercial fishery happening now. What is going to happen to that? And I get zero; the Commonwealth gets nothing put into their treasury. That is a discussion. I am tired of us having these discussions amongst

ourselves, talking about passing blame. It goes, “this and that, and this.” No. We come together and we look at the federal government and say, “Look, our covenant is very clear.” Our people are tired of us having these discussions among ourselves. We do not have a \$70 trillion budget.” And I love how Representative Attao always reminds me we do not print our money. That is right, we do not. But I love the handouts they give us as an ally. \$2 million here, \$3 million there. If I am lucky, I get a grant. They could easily give us \$400 million in cover over taxes that are due. But they are deciding whether or not that is the appropriate amount. But if we had this money infused in, then maybe it would be easier. We do not have that kind of opportunity. We need airlines. That is what we need. And that's \$900 thousand. Believe me, I would like to turn that into \$900 million so I can start having airlines come in and participate. That is the bigger question we should be asking ourselves. I am not going to pass blame on the Marianas Visitors Authority, because let us look, you are right about the tourist sites. Who would put concrete right next to the beach when the salt deteriorates? I mean, that is another question. Who was in charge of that scheme? That does not work. Why can we not just keep it basic? Make it an island? I do not know. I am not in charge of that. What the committee is in charge of in the Marianas Visitors Authority is to make sure that it is clean. How do we do that? Now, we have to participate with Parks and Recreation and all the other Department of Public Land subdepartments. And let me remind you, I got an Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel sitting that looks like trash in the middle of my precinct. I cannot help that. I cannot even blame the Marianas Visitors Authority. I am not blaming them; I am not going to do that. But there are a lot of discussions that we should be having rather than pinning each other to the wall and asking, “What are we going to do?” We need to start asking the really hard questions, because our people are tired and they want to thrive. If it is holding \$900 thousand for them, and if the board says that does not work, they do not spend it. But yes, I agree with you. I agree that there should be another way. And it probably should have been done 20 years ago. But here we are. So, what do we do? We try to figure out the best way possible, move forward, bring more money in to appropriate more money, and continue to have jobs for our people. Let us figure it out, because it is not just my precinct. It is your precinct, too. It is everyone's village. But we have to start helping each other and figuring it out, because these conversations should not be happening at this time. We should be having bigger conversations. Please, if you do get a chance to talk to someone from the federal government, please let them know. Thank you. I yield my time.

The Chair recognized Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona.

Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we are on the topic, I like what Representative Aquino brought up. What can we do now to improve our current tourist attractions? I think there are little things that we could do that can make a big difference. I do not know if you all have passed by Fishing Base—I think that was last weekend or two weekends ago—there was a big CNMI flag. That is a simple thing that we could put up that is a massive attraction. I mean, I got goosebumps just driving through and just seeing that. We are getting back into encouraging our local markets, the street markets, and those types of things. I did have a conversation with the previous director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. I hope that the focus still remains on trying to get our local businesses involved and doing little things that make us unique. No matter how many tourists we get here, whether they are little or how much, those are the attractions they look for. They want to feel that island vibe, they want to feel our culture, and there are little things we can do right now with the money that we have to improve. Like you said, going back to the island roots, it can be simple. But I think little things like that, we can think

of that, can just give our tourists something to do other than the beach. I think that we can work toward doing that now with the resources that we have. Thank you. That just came in my mind and I want to say that. Thank you.

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. 24-5 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	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 Malcolm 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	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Absent (During Vote)

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.

Acting Clerk Brenalyn T. Santos: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members present voting “yes,” Conference Committee Report No. 24-5 is hereby adopted. I now recognize the Floor Leader. There being no item under Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, through Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar. We now proceed to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar. Members, I want to remind you all that we have House Bill No. 24-30, Senate Draft 1 from Senate Communication No. 24-98, which we agreed to place on calendar for action in the next session. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader moved to withdraw H. B. No. 24-105:

H. B. NO. 24-105: To enact the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act ("BIRTH Act"); and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to withdraw H. B. NO. 24-105 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: The Clerk will place House Bill No. 24-105 on Bill Calendar for First Reading at the next regular session. Okay. There being nothing further under the Bill Calendar, I now proceed to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and the floor is open.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair proceeded to Item No. 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to inform the members of the Judicial and Governmental Operations that we are rescheduling a committee meeting. I just noticed a bill got pulled. My apologies if anybody feels there are any delays. There are a lot on the committee right now. But we have a scheduled committee next week Thursday. We are just finalizing the agenda. It is forthcoming. So, I just wanted to notify the members of the Judicial and Governmental Operation that is happening. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to wish the men, Happy Father's Day. Even though we know that we are the ones cooking, again. The Chairman and I would like to wish the people of the CNMI, most epically the people of our beautiful villages of Presinct 2, Happy Father's Day. We love you all. We want to wish the 2026, graduates, too. Especially those from our beautiful villages of Precinct 2. Congratulations and we wish you the best of luck. And congratulations to the parents, too. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Aquino, thank you, but you forgot to the women who wear dual hats. We do not want to outcast anybody. We want to be inclusive and we want to be respectful. Thank you, Representative Aquino. Happy Father's Day to all the men, women single mothers and single fathers who are wearing both hats. Thank you to the fathers who will be barbecuing for their food to eat, and the ladies taking care of all the other things or vice versa. Thank you. I yield my time.

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.

The House adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. No. 24-54: To amend 10 CMC § 12143 to lower the local gambling taxes, including online gaming. Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

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

H. B. NO. 24-105: To enact the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act ("BIRTH Act"); and for other purposes. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs on May 22, 2026. H. B. NO. 24-106: To require legislative representation and oversight in Section 902 consultations by including the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as Special Representatives of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026. Referred to: House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs on May 22, 2026.

H. L. B. NO. 24-54: To amend 10 CMC § 12143 to lower the local gambling taxes, including online gaming. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026. [ADDED-5/22/2026]

H. L. B. NO. 24-58: To appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the purposes of regulatory and compliance training within the Rota Casino Gaming Commission. REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself). Introduced on May 22, 2026.

H. RES. NO. 24-27: To honor and commend the employees and crews of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Guam Power Authority for their courage, technical expertise, and dedicated service in restoring power to the Commonwealth following Super Typhoon Sinlaku and other natural disasters. REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself) Introduced on May 22, 2026. Placed on the Resolution Calendar: May 22, 2026. Action: Adopted-5/22/2026 vv

H. J. R. NO. 24-12: To require legislative representation and oversight in Section 902 consultations by including the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, or their designees, as Special Representatives of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) Introduced on May 22, 2026. Placed on the Resolution Calendar: May 22, 2026. Action: Adopted-5/22/2026 rc [15-0]

H. J. R. NO. 24-13: To affirm the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands’ commitment to eliminate the commercial facilitation of birth tourism as evidenced by the enactment of the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act (“BIRTH Act”); to present updated data demonstrating the effectiveness of existing federal and local measures; and to request continued federal coordination consistent with those efforts. 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, 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, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) Introduced on May 22, 2026. Placed on the Resolution Calendar: May 22, 2026. Action: Adopted-5/22/2026 rc [15-0]

H. J. R. NO. 24-14: To affirm Commonwealth rights in submerged lands, territorial seas, and the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the Commonwealth. 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, 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, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) Introduced on May 22, 2026. Placed on the Resolution Calendar: May 22, 2026. Action: Adopted-5/22/2026 rc [15-0]

LEGISLATIVE DEADLINE TRACKER (Informational)

Veto Override/Reconsideration Deadlines

Gov. Comm. 24-146: (5/20/2026) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 24-49, entitled, To establish the CNMI Next/Gen 911 Telephone Communications System within the CNMI; and for other purposes. [Deadline: 7/19/2026] Read on May 22, 2026 and referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Executive Appointments Requiring Legislative Confirmation

None pending.

Judicial Rule Review Period

None pending

