



GOV. COMM. 24-75
(HOUSE)

David M. Apatang
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

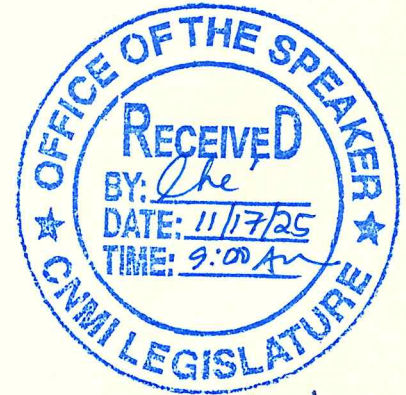
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

November 14, 2025

GOV2025-500

The Honorable Donald M. Manglona
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950




11/17/25

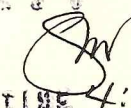
Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Local Bill No. 24-23, D1**, entitled "To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour Act; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Rota Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.


This Bill becomes **Rota Local Law 24-03**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

RECEIVED BY 
DATE 11/17/25 TIME 4:00 PM

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;
Mayor of Rota; Secretary, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs;
Rota DCCA Resident Director; Historic Preservation Office
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review


11/14/2025
@4:11 pm



**ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025**

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 24-23, D1

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour Act; and for other purposes.

OFFERED BY

Representative Julie Marie A. Ogo

Introduced on August 29, 2025


HOUSE ACTION

Transmitted to the Rota Legislative Delegation for action on

September 29, 2025

DELEGATION ACTION

Referred to:	None
Comments Solicited:	9/29/25: Mayor of Rota [Del. Matters 24-42] & 20 th Rota Municipal Council [Del. Matters 24-43]
Comments Received:	None
Standing Committee Report:	None
Passed Final Reading:	November 6, 2025, w/Draft 1


Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk



**ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

H. L. B. NO. 24-23, D1

**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour Act; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

The Rota Legislative Delegation finds that the Historic Preservation Office (HPO), under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA), plays a vital role in preserving, promoting, and interpreting Rota's cultural and historical heritage. With growing public interest in heritage-based tourism and educational experiences, structured guided tours and outreach programs are essential in enhancing cultural awareness, fostering local pride, and supporting preservation efforts.

The purpose of this Act is to authorize the HPO to collect reasonable fees for services provided to tourists, visitors, and the general public, thereby supporting and sustaining these programs. However, the Delegation intends that these services remain accessible to local students and government-sponsored educational initiatives. Accordingly, this Act exempts school students

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1 and government agencies from fee requirements.

2 **SECTION 2. ENACTMENT.** Subject to the codification by the Law Revision Commission, the
3 following is enacted to read:

4 “Section 101. Short Title. This Act shall be cited as the “Rota Cultural Heritage and
5 Education Tour Act of 2025.”

6 Section 102. Authorization to Collect Tour and Outreach Fees.

7 (a) The Historic Preservation Office in Rota, under the Department of Community and
8 Cultural Affairs, is hereby authorized to establish and collect fees for the following
9 services:

- 10 1. Guided tours of historical, archaeological, or culturally significant sites; and
11 2. Cultural educational outreach tours or programs conducted for community
12 groups, private organizations, or visiting delegations.

13 (b) The fees shall be determined based on relevant factors, including but not limited to
14 group size, location, tour duration, and administrative costs. The Rota DCCA Resident Director
15 shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary to implement this section, including but not
16 limited to:

- 17 1. Fee schedules;
18 2. Permitting and reservation procedures;
19 3. Tour guide training and certification standards; and
20 4. Site preservation, safety, and visitor conduct guidelines.

21 Section 103. Exemptions.

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1 (a) All students from public schools, as well as private or parochial schools participating
2 in educational field trips coordinated with the CNMI Public School System or the parochial school
3 system, shall be exempt from the fees established under this Act.

4 (b) Government agencies conducting official or educational tours shall also be exempt
5 from paying tour or outreach fees.

6 (c) The Rota DCCA Resident Director shall have the authority to grant additional fee
7 exemptions or waivers in cases where the purpose of the activity provides significant public benefit
8 or cultural value.

9 Section 104. Establishment of the Rota Cultural Outreach and Tour Fund.

10 (a) There is hereby established a special account to be known as the “Rota Cultural
11 Outreach and Tour Fund.”

12 (b) All revenues collected under this Act shall be deposited into the Fund and shall not
13 revert to the General Fund at the end of the fiscal year.

14 (c) Monies in the Fund shall be used exclusively for the following purposes:

- 15 1. Maintenance and preservation of historical and cultural sites;
- 16 2. Development and dissemination of educational and interpretive materials;
- 17 3. Training and certification of tour guides;
- 18 4. Acquisition of outreach equipment and provision of transportation; and
- 19 5. Program staffing and administrative support.

20 Section 105. Expenditure Authority.

1 The expenditure authority for the Rota Cultural Outreach and Tour Fund shall be the Mayor
2 of Rota, in consultation with the DCCA Resident Director for the First Senatorial District.”

3 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

4 If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or
5 circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act
6 or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held
7 invalid shall not be affected thereby.

8 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

9 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing
10 right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not
11 affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not
12 have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
13 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

14 **SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

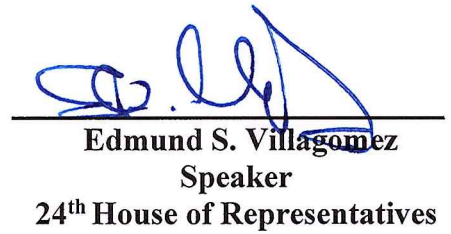
15 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming law without
16 such approval.

HOUSE LOCAL BILL No. 24-23, D1

CERTIFIED BY:

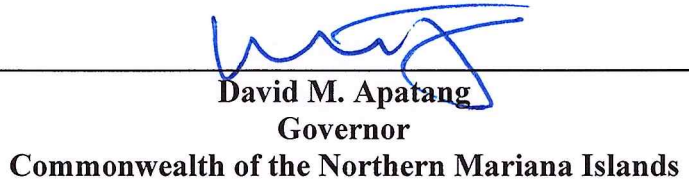


Donald M. Mangiona
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation



Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
24th House of Representatives

Approved this 14th day of November, 2025.



David M. Apatang
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands