



GOV. COMM. 24-161
(HOUSE)

David M. Apatang
Governor

Dennis James C. Mendiola
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 02, 2026

OV2026-424

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

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors
President
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



2/14/26

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Bill No. 24-74, SS2, CCS1**, entitled, "To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Lands Trust.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-32**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


DAVID M. APATANG
Governor

TO: CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED BY: [signature]
DATE: 7/16/2026 TIME: 9:19 AM

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Public School System; Marianas Visitors Authority;
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

REPRESENTATIVE BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO OF SAIPAN, PRECINCT 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 24-74, SS2, CCS1 AN ACT

**TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS DERIVED FROM TRUST
INTEREST INCOME FROM THE MARIANAS PUBLIC
LAND TRUST.**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Bill was not referred to a House Committee.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 7, 2025;
without amendments and transmitted to THE SENATE.**

IN THE SENATE

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, which submitted Standing Committee Report 24-44; adopted 12/1/2025.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, DECEMBER 1, 2025;
with amendments in the form of H. B. NO. 24-74, SS2 and returned to THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.**

The House of Representatives rejected the Senate amendments and the Bill was sent to Conference, which submitted Conference Committee Report 24-2.

**H. B. No. 24-74, SS2, CCS1 IS DULY PASSED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE.**


Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH DAY, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 18, 2026

H. B. No. 24-74, SS2, CCS1

AN ACT

**TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS DERIVED FROM TRUST INTEREST
INCOME FROM THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST.**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN
MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

2 The Legislature acknowledges Governor David Apatang's Gov. Msg. No. 24-
3 171, which stated that the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) appropriation of
4 \$1,000,000 is no longer needed due to the conclusion of the federal shutdown on
5 November 12, 2025, thereby averting the CNMI NAP crisis.

6 However, the Legislature finds that a critical need exists to appropriate the
7 \$1,000,000 to support essential government operations. Accordingly, the
8 Legislature determines that the funds shall be allocated to the operations of the
9 Marianas Visitors Authority to augment its tourism recovery efforts, and twenty-
10 five percent (25%) of the total appropriation shall be provided to the Public School

HOUSE BILL 24-74, SS2, CCS1

System in accordance with Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SECTION 2. ENACTMENT. Notwithstanding CNMI laws, rules, and regulations to the contrary, the following provision is hereby enacted into law:

“§ 101. Appropriation.

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\$1,000,000.00 of funds derived from the preliminary distribution of trust income proceeds from the Marianas Public Land Trust is hereby appropriated as follows:

(a) \$250,000.00 for the Public School System in accordance with the CNMI Constitution Article XV, Section 1(e), and the funds shall be used for instructional expenses;

(b) \$750,000.00 for the operations of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Section 102. Expenditure Authority.

(a) The Commissioner of the Public School System shall be the expenditure authority of the funds under Section 101(a).

(b) The Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director shall be the expenditure authority of the funds provided under Section 101(b);

Section 103. Reporting Requirement.

(a) The Commissioner of the Public School System shall submit a report to the presiding officers of the legislature upon the expenditure of the funds provided under Section 101(a).

HOUSE BILL 24-74, SS2, CCS1

1 (b) The Marianas Visitors Authority Managing Director shall submit a
2 report to the presiding officers of the legislature upon the expenditure of the
3 funds provided under Section 101(b).”

4 **SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

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

10 **SECTION 4. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

HOUSE BILL 24-74, SS2, CCS1

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

Attested to by:



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by:



ACTING-SPEAKER DIEGO V. F. CAMACHO
House of Representatives
24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Approved this 2nd day of July, 2026



DAVID M. APATANG
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands