
CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT • FY2025



**CANNABIS
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**



A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

LOOKING AHEAD

A MESSAGE TO OUR YOUTH

Address from the Interim Managing Director

Saludu para i taotao Marianas,
(Greetings to the people of the Marianas)

As the Interim Managing Director of the CNMI Cannabis Commission, I am pleased to present the Citizen Centric Report for Fiscal Year 2025. This report demonstrates our ongoing dedication to transparent governance, effective cannabis regulation, and responsive service to both our licensees and the broader community.

Strengthening Cultivation and Testing Standards

Throughout the year, the Commission has worked diligently to heighten standards for pesticide use on cannabis cultivation and testing facility protocols. Our primary aim is to ensure that all cannabis products are produced and tested naturally and safely, particularly given the absence of a certified testing facility within the Commonwealth. Through regulatory improvements and active engagement with stakeholders, we have taken deliberate steps to protect consumer health and encourage clean production methods across the islands.

Collaboration and Association Memberships

We are proud to be part of the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA), which brings together regulatory agencies from various U.S. states and several countries. This membership allows us access to valuable resources, the exchange of best practices, and the opportunity to continually refine our regulatory framework in line with national standards and evolving federal guidelines.

Partnerships for a Safer Industry

Our gratitude extends to the Division of Environmental Quality for collaborating on cannabis pesticide regulations and waste disposal protocols. We also appreciate the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Agriculture for working with us to address unregulated hemp-derived products. These partnerships play a crucial role in maintaining a cannabis industry that is safe, transparent, and respectful of our cultural context.

Support from the Legislature

We are grateful to the CNMI Legislature for its ongoing support, particularly in funding the Commission's operations and advocating for expanded staffing. Their commitment has been essential in enabling us to fulfill our regulatory responsibilities and better serve the public.

Recognizing Industry Pioneers and Licensees

Above all, we thank the pioneers and licensees of the CNMI cannabis industry - the early advocates, reform-minded legislators, and investors in the industry's future. Your support has made this movement possible and remains central to the Commission's mission. On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your enduring trust and commitment. We look forward to a future built on integrity, sustainability, and shared progress.

Thomas L. Songsong

What We Do

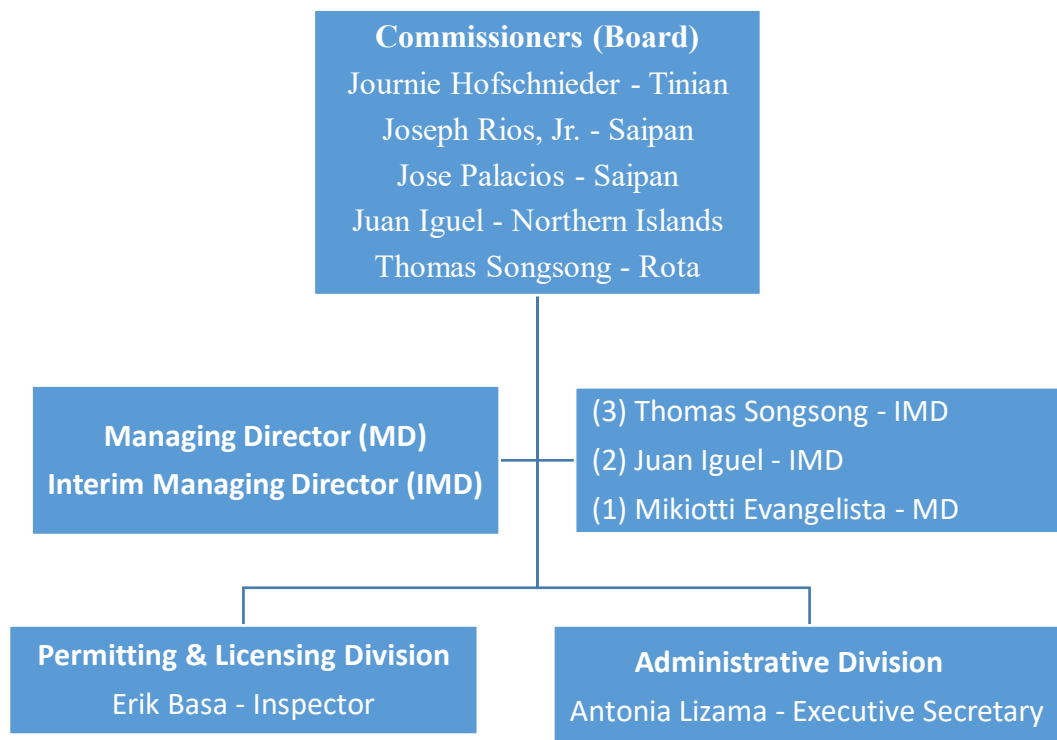
Established by Public Law 20-66 in September 2018 and strengthened through amendments in Public Law 21-5 (August 2019) and Public Law 21-25 (May 2020), the CNMI Cannabis Commission serves as the regulatory authority for the Commonwealth's cannabis industry. Through licensing, compliance oversight, and inter-agency collaboration, we uphold safe, transparent, and culturally respectful cannabis practices that protect public health and foster responsible economic growth.

Core Responsibilities:

- Issue and renew licenses for cultivation, processing, retail, lounge, wholesale, testing, and research
- Develop and enforce cannabis regulations across the Commonwealth
- Educate stakeholders and conduct public outreach
- Coordinate with agencies on marijuana and hemp to strengthen the regulatory framework
- Monitor industry trends and support evidence-based policymaking
- Engage in national regulatory networks, including the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA)



Organizational Chart

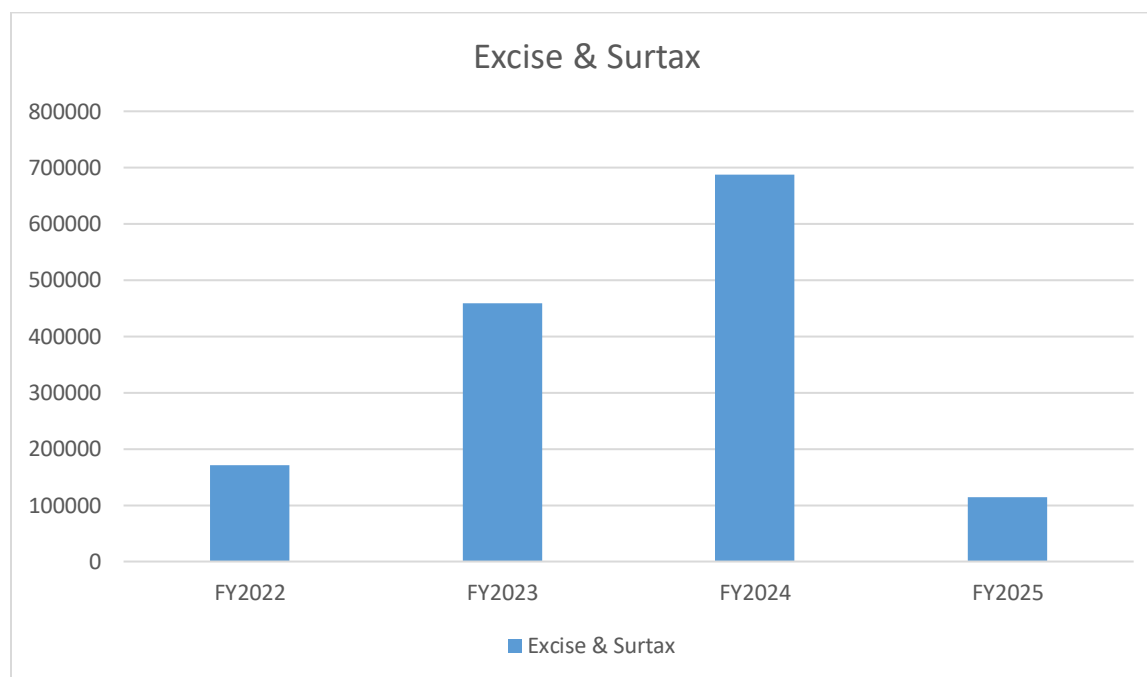


FY2025 Performance Highlights

Despite fiscal and staffing constraints, the Commission made key strides in regulatory development and industry support.

Initiative	Outcome
Reduced application and license fees	Amended regulations and Board Resolution No. 2025-08-001 adopted; application, license, and license renewal fees reduced by 25%.
Seed-to-Sale Cannabis Tracking System	New regulations adopted; ongoing internal development of a cost-effective reporting system to ensure product traceability and regulatory compliance.
Proposed statutory amendments	Proposed amendments to the Cannabis Act submitted for legislative consideration.
Cost-Benefit Analysis	Considering adjustments to Commissioner roles and resource distribution to better support personnel growth and operational efficiency.
Marijuana Waste Disposal regulations	New draft regulations currently under review by the Division of Environmental Quality to assess compliance with environmental and waste management laws and regulations.
Hemp-derived product review	Coordinated with DLNR's Division of Agriculture to evaluate oversight strategies for hemp-derived products with intoxicating potential.
Marijuana Testing Facility	Amended regulations adopted to enhance accreditation standards and reinforce testing protocols.
Pesticide Use on Cannabis	New producer regulations adopted; established standards permitting the use of EPA-designated "minimum risk pesticides" for cannabis cultivation.
CANNRA participation	Leveraged shared resources and aligned regulatory practices with national standards through active engagement with the Cannabis Regulators Association (CANNRA).
Licensee education	Electronic outreach conducted to inform licensees of advertising content restrictions and promote regulatory compliance.
Inter-Island Transport of Marijuana	Prohibited under current federal law; future allowances contingent on potential federal rescheduling of cannabis.
Retailer Delivery	Amended retailer regulations adopted; Compliance Advisory issued for marijuana delivery originating from licensed retail premises.
Setting Potency Limits	Processor regulatory framework under development; defining potency thresholds for concentrates, edibles, tinctures, and topicals to ensure consumer safety and product consistency.
Plant Growth Regulators (PGRs)	Producer regulatory framework under development; assessing distinctions between synthetic and natural PGRs, with potential restrictions on synthetic applications under review.
Fertilizer and Soil Amendments	Producer regulatory framework under development; evaluating public health risks associated with Salmonella, E. coli, and other microbial contaminants.

Financial Snapshot



Excise and Surtax Collections Overview

- FY2025: \$113,880.33 (as of July 31, 2025)
- FY2024: \$686,978.56 (\$517,858.14 appropriated; P.L. 23-20 (May 20, 2024))
- FY2023: \$458,819.33
- FY2022: \$170,662.68

Source: Department of Finance Fund Certification FC294, issued August 14, 2025

Budget Summary & Appropriations:

- FY2025: \$517,868.14 — Reference: P.L. 23-20 (May 20, 2024); CCR FY2024
- FY2024: \$203,332.93 — Carried over from FY2023
- FY2023: \$620,604.81 — Reference: CCR FY2023
- FY2022: \$472,582.00 — Reference: P.L. 22-08
- FY2021: \$235,108.00 — Reference: P.L. 21-2-35

Employment Opportunities: As of September 2025, cannabis licensees have created approximately sixty employment positions across the Commonwealth.

Industry Participant Overview

- Producers: Entities authorized to cultivate cannabis within the CNMI under various canopy classes.

- Processors: Businesses permitted to process raw cannabis materials into finished products.
- Retailers: Licensed outlets responsible for the direct sale of cannabis products to consumers.
- Lounges: Approved venues where cannabis may be consumed on-site by eligible and responsible adults.



Producer Information

#	Producer	Canopy Class
1	CannaBlyss	2
2	CannaSaipan	1
3	Da Dankery	1
4	Elevated Minds	1
5	Max Farms	2
6	Primo Farms	1
7	Saipan Select	2
8	Top Shelf	3

\$16,200 in producer license renewal fees were collected prior to the September 30, 2025, license expiration, following the Commission's authorization of a 25% fee rate reduction for all licensees across the Marianas - an economic relief measure aimed at sustaining industry viability.

Processor Information

	Processor	Type
1	RozFX	Solventless extraction
2	Top Shelf	Solventless extraction

\$6,750 in processor license renewal fees were collected ahead of the September 30, 2025, license expiration, following the Commission's 25% rate reduction to support industry viability.

Retailer Information

	Retailer	Location
1	CannaBlyss	Garapan
2	CannaSaipan	Garapan
3	High Grade Dispensary	Garapan
4	Saipan Select	Tanapag
5	Smoke Weed Me	Puerto Rico
6	The Green Room (420 Dispensary)	Garapan
7	The Hook Up	Garapan

\$31,5000 in retailer license renewal fees were collected ahead of the September 30, 2025, license expiration, following the Commission's 25% rate reduction to support industry viability.

Lounge Information

	Lounge	Location
1	420 Lounge	Garapan
2	CannaSaipan	Garapan

\$7,500 in lounge license renewal fees were collected ahead of the September 30, 2025, license expiration, following the Commission's 25% rate reduction to support industry viability.

Other License Categories

	License Type	Applicant/Licensed
1	Micro-Producer	None
2	Processor (Solvent-based extraction)	None
3	Research (Certificate)	None
4	Testing Facility	None
5	Wholesaler	None

Fee Collections Overview

As of July 31, 2025, total fee collections - excluding September 2025 collections (\$61,950) - amounted to \$378,342.50. These figures include amounts from the preceding fiscal year and are certified under Fund Certification FC400, issued on August 14, 2025.

Looking Ahead – FY2026 Commission Objectives

- Finalize and publish marijuana waste disposal regulations
- Enhance licensee education on sales compliance and adult-oriented advertising standards
- Advance the regulatory framework to support evolving industry needs
- Collaborate with the Department of Public Safety to develop and release a Cannabis Enforcement Guide
- Strengthen partnership with DLNR's Division of Agriculture on hemp-derived products
- Engage national regulators to adopt best practices and align with federal guidelines
- Expand personnel and operational capacity to meet growing regulatory demands
- Establish two new divisions within the Commission - Policy & Regulation and Enforcement & Compliance - to enhance regulatory infrastructure. Concurrently, onboard one Enforcement & Compliance staff member each for the islands of Tinian and Rota, ensuring strengthened oversight and equitable enforcement across the Marianas.
- Continue development of internal cannabis tracking system to better monitor compliance trends and identify emerging risks across licensees.



- Launch stakeholder workshops to foster collaboration and gather industry feedback on proposed regulatory updates.
- Establish annual performance reviews for Commission divisions to assess progress and refine strategic objectives.

Performance Measurement and Community Engagement

The Commission gauges its achievements not only by regulatory advancements but also by the confidence, safety, and well-being of the community. Our progress is assessed through several key indicators:

- **Licensee Compliance Rates**
Strong compliance with regulations, punctual reporting, and successful inspections serve as clear evidence of our educational efforts and oversight capabilities.
- **Public Health & Safety Outcomes**
Enhanced product safety and greater public understanding of responsible adult consumption demonstrate advancement toward our public health objectives.
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration**
Effective partnerships with law enforcement and environmental agencies promote comprehensive governance and efficient service delivery.
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
Close collaboration with licensees and community leaders help shape and refine our policies.
- **Transparency & Accessibility**
Prompt publication of official notices, clear communication strategies, and staff availability for inquiries highlight our dedication to open and responsive governance.



Citizen Feedback

The Commission values contributions from every community member. Whether you are a licensee, consumer, or engaged resident, your feedback is crucial in shaping a safer and more effective cannabis industry. There are several ways to share your input:

- Participate in public comment periods on proposed regulations
- Reach out directly to Commission staff through email or phone
- Complete online surveys and feedback forms (coming soon)

Your perspectives drive improvements not only in our policies but also in the quality of service we provide to the people of the Marianas.



Conclusion

The Commission is dedicated to building a safe, transparent, and culturally mindful cannabis industry that upholds both public interest and economic growth. Fiscal Year 2025 represented a period of meaningful regulatory development, strengthened inter-agency cooperation, and active engagement with licensees and stakeholders.

Despite ongoing challenges, such as limited staffing and infrastructure, the Commission continues to push for expanded resources and improved processes to keep pace with industry growth. Our involvement in national regulatory networks and collaborations with local agencies underscore our commitment to adhering to best practices and federal standards.

We offer our sincere gratitude to the Commonwealth Legislature, our agency partners, and especially the licensees and trailblazers who are the foundations of this industry. Your dedication, perseverance, and trust make all our progress possible.



Looking forward to Fiscal Year 2026, our focus will remain on enhancing our regulatory framework and further developing our team and operational systems. By maintaining transparent governance and prioritizing citizen-centered outreach, we strive to build a resilient, responsive agency that inspires public trust and encourages responsible participation in the regulated cannabis sector. Together, we are shaping an industry that honors the values, safety, and legacy of the Marianas.

Industry Stakeholders



MEMORIAS

To the late Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios - whose leadership, humility, and unwavering commitment to the people of the Commonwealth continue to guide our path. His vision for transparent governance and community empowerment lives on in every effort we make toward responsible cannabis regulation. The CNMI Cannabis Commission honors his legacy with gratitude and resolve.



A Message To Our Youth: Your Future Is Growing - Choose Wisely

Cannabis is not for kids.

Its use can affect your growing brain, your goals, and your ability to make smart choices. The law is clear: marijuana is for adults, and even then, only under strict regulation. But this message isn't just about rules, it's about *you*.

Education is your power.

Every class you attend, every skill you build, every question you ask, these shape the leader you're becoming. Whether you dream of becoming a teacher, a healer, a builder, or a changemaker, your choices today lay your foundation for tomorrow.

Responsibility is your strength.

Being responsible means knowing when to say no, when to ask for help, and when to stand up for what's right. It means protecting your health, your future, and your community.

You are the future of the Marianas.

We believe in you. We need you. And we're here to support you as you grow into the strong, wise, and grounded adults our islands deserve.

Stay curious. Stay focused. Stay true.

—CNMI Cannabis Commission