



OFFICE OF SENATOR JUDE U. HOFSCHEIDER
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN-FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN-FEDERAL RELATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN-TINIAN & AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: November 14, 2025

TO: General Public

FROM: Senator Jude U. Hofschneider,
Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs

SUBJECT: Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting

The Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs will convene a meeting on **Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 10:00 am** in the **Senate Chamber** of the **Honorable Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building**.

To ensure the Committee properly receives written comments on agenda items, the public may submit their written testimonies to the Office of Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Hon. Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, prior to the convening of the committee meeting. Oral testimony may be presented during the committee meeting.

cc: Senate FA Members
LB- Director
Senate Clerk
Senate Legal Counsels
Senate Legal Assistants
Senate Fiscal Analyst



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CHAIRMAN-TINIAN & AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

November 14, 2025

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC § 9901 et seq.), the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs announces that the Committee of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will be conducting the following meeting:

MEETING: Fiscal Affairs Committee Meeting
DATE AND TIME: Wednesday, November 19, 2025- 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Senate Chamber

Copies of this notice and the agenda have been filed in the Office of Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, released to the media, and posted at the following locations:

Administration Building Entrance Hall
House of Representatives Entrance Hall
Senate Entrance Hall
Commonwealth Legislature website (www.cnmileg.gov.mp)

To ensure the Committee properly receives written comments on agenda items, the public may submit their written testimonies to the Office of Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, prior to the convening of the committee meeting. Oral testimony may be presented during the committee meeting.

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OFFICE OF SENATOR JUDE U. HOFSCHEIDER

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT

CHAIRMAN-FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN-FEDERAL RELATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN-TINIAN & AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

TELEPHONE: (670) 664-8874 MAILING: P.O. Box 500129 Saipan, MP 96950

EMAIL: senator.hofschneider@gmail.com | senator.juh.staff@gmail.com

FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AGENDA

DATE	TIME	VENUE
November 19, 2025	10:00 a.m.	Senate Chamber

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **H.B. No. 24-70**, To authorize the Public School System (PSS) to utilize unrestricted funds previously appropriated to PSS for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes.

[Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao; Referred on November 14, 2025]

Request for Comments (RFC) Deadline/Date Received

Committee Action:

- ☐ Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Committee Report to: ☐ Pass in Original Form ☐ Pass with Amendments
- ☐ Reject ☐ File
- ☐ Hold for Further Discussion

2. **H.B. No. 24-74**, To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from MPLT towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025.

[Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao; Referred on November 14, 2025]

Request for Comments (RFC) Deadline/Date Received

Committee Action:

- ☐ Public Hearing: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ Committee Report to: ☐ Pass in Original Form ☐ Pass with Amendments
- ☐ Reject ☐ File
- ☐ Hold for Further Discussion

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT



Hse. Comm. No. 24-93

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

November 7, 2025

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

Dear Senate President King-Nabors:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for Senate *action* **H. B. No. 24-74**, entitled, **"To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025,"** which was passed by the House of Representatives on First and Final Reading by the unanimous vote of the members present, a quorum being present, during its Eighth Day, Second Regular Session, on November 7, 2025.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Muña, MPA
House Clerk

Attachment

TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE

Received by:

Date: 11/7/25

Time: 10:59 pm

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Second Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-74

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To appropriate funds derived from trust interest income from the Marianas Public Land Trust towards payment of household allotments of Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits for November 2025.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature recognizes the acute
2 reliance of many residents of the Commonwealth on benefits from the federal
3 Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) to meet their household dietary needs.

4 The Legislature finds that, due to the ongoing shutdown of the federal
5 government, the federal government will not be paying the full household
6 allotments of NAP benefits for November 2025. Pursuant to two federal court
7 orders requiring the federal government to issue benefits, the United States
8 Department of Agriculture has advised that for November 2025 the federal
9 government will pay half the full amount of household allotments.

10 As only 65% of the full benefits will be paid by the federal government for
11 the month of November 2025, legislative action is urgently needed to compensate

1 for this shortfall. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 7604(b), the Secretary of Finance has
2 informed the Legislature that additional funds will be available for appropriation in
3 the preliminary amount of \$1 million in net distributable income from the Marianas
4 Public Land Trust.

5 This bill authorizes an emergency budget provision of \$1 million to facilitate
6 immediate food benefits for the month of November 2025. In close collaboration
7 with the Executive Branch, the Legislature is acting swiftly to get these much-
8 needed funds to families to put food on the table.

9 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding CNMI laws, rules and regulations to
10 the contrary, the following provision is hereby enacted into law:

11 **“§ 101. Appropriation.**

12 \$1,000,000.00 of funds derived from the preliminary distribution of trust
13 income proceeds from the Marianas Public Land Trust is hereby appropriated to
14 fund a portion of household allotments for Nutrition Assistance Program benefits
15 for November 2025.

16 These moneys shall be disbursed for pro rata distribution to eligible
17 households in conjunction with the funding of 50% of full benefits by the United
18 States Department of Agriculture.

19 The Secretary of Finance shall be the expenditure authority for these funds,
20 which shall be disbursed in close collaboration with the Administrator of the CNMI
21 Nutrition Assistance Program. No portion of these moneys may be used for any

1 other purpose than proportional distribution of benefits to eligible households
2 participating in the Nutrition Assistance Program. This appropriation shall lapse
3 following the last distribution of benefits for the month of November 2025
4 regardless of the date of the actual distribution.”

5 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
6 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
7 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
8 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
9 shall not be affected thereby.

10 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
11 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
12 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
13 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
14 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
15 of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall
16 already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

17 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
18 Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 11/6/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao

HOUSE BILL 24-74

/s/ Rep. Roy C.A. Ada
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. Aldan
/s/ Rep. Daniel I. Aquino Jr.
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores
/s/ Rep. Thomas J. DLC. Manglona
/s/ Rep. Malcolm J. Omar
/s/ Rep. Raymond U. Palacios
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez
/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
/s/ Rep. Ralph N. Yumul

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:
/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr. 11/6/2025
House Legal Counsel



Case. Comm. No. 24-92

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE

Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

November 6, 2025

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

Dear Senate President King-Nabors:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for Senate *action* **H. B. No. 24-70**, entitled: **"To authorize the Public School System (PSS) to utilize unrestricted funds previously appropriated to PSS for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes."**, which was passed by the House of Representatives on First and Final Reading, by the majority vote of the members present, a quorum being present, during its Seventh Day, Second Regular Session on November 6, 2025.

Sincerely yours,

Linda B. Muña, MPA
House Clerk

Attachment

TRANSMITTAL TO THE SENATE

Received by:

Date: 11/6/24

Time: 3:24 pm

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2025

Second Regular Session, 2025

H. B. 24-70

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To authorize the Public School System (PSS) to utilize unrestricted funds previously appropriated to PSS for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 24TH NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Public
2 School System (PSS) requested through the budget process for Fiscal Year 2026
3 the amount of \$49,285,559.00. The Legislature further finds that Public Law 24-14
4 (the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget) only allocated \$31,779,008.00 for PSS, which is a
5 difference of \$17,506,551.00. Additionally, the Legislature finds that PSS has
6 unrestricted funds available for its usage in the amount of \$4,911,849.00 but needs
7 legislative action in order to utilize the funds.

8 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to allow PSS to utilize \$4,911,849.00 of
9 its unrestricted funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

10 **Section 2. Enactment.** Notwithstanding any laws, rules or regulations to
11 the contrary PSS is hereby authorized to utilize \$4,911,849.00 of its unrestricted
12 funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

1 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of
2 any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court
3 of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its
4 provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid
5 shall not be affected thereby.

6 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein
7 shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or
8 acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted
9 under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
10 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have
11 the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal,
12 which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

13 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
14 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 10/28/2025

Date: _____

Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joseph A. Flores
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores
/s/ Rep. Thomas J. DLC. Manglona
/s/ Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo
/s/ Rep. Malcolm J. Omar

HOUSE BILL 24-70

/s/ Rep. Raymond U. Palacios

/s/ Rep. Elias J.M. Rangamar

/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

/s/ Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr.

House Legal Counsel

Date: 10/28/2025