

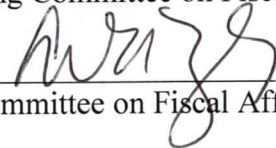


Sen. Comm. No. 23-422

**OFFICE OF SENATOR DONALD M MANGLONA
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

Committee on Fiscal Affairs

MEMORANDUM

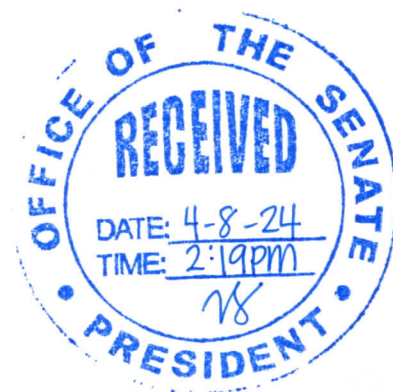
Date: April 8, 2024
To: Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs
From: Senator Donald M. Manglona 
Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs
Subject: Fiscal Affairs Emergency Committee Meeting

This is to inform all Members of the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs that there will be an Emergency Committee Meeting on **Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** in the **Senate Chamber** of the **Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capital Hill, Saipan.**

Pursuant to Rule 3, Section 5(a) of the Interim Rules of the Senate, the purpose of this Emergency Committee Meeting is to address **House Bill 23-104, HD1: To appropriate \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) for the Twenty Five Percent (25%) retirees' pension for all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.**

Please see the attached agenda. Your attendance is greatly requested.

cc: Members, Fiscal Affairs
Senate President
Senate Clerk
Senate Legal Counsel
Senate Legislative Assistants
Senate Fiscal Analyst
LB Director
Media



**HONORABLE JESUS P MAFNAS BUILDING, CAPITAL HILL,
P.O. BOX 500129 SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: 670 664-8803 EMAIL: SEN.DMANGLONA@GMAIL.COM
COMMITTEES: FISCAL AFFAIRS; HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE**



OFFICE OF SENATOR DONALD M MANGLONA
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANA COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Committee on Fiscal Affairs

April 9, 2024

1:30 p.m.

Senate Chamber, Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Vote to Determine if an Emergency Exists– Pursuant to Rule 3, Section 5(b) of the Interim Rules of the Senate
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Public Comments
- VI. New Business
 - a. **House Bill 23-104, HD1:** *To appropriate \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) for the Twenty Five Percent (25%) retirees' pension for all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Adjournment

cc: Members, Fiscal Affairs
Senate President
Senate Clerk
Senate Legal Counsel
Senate Legislative Assistants
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Hse. Comm. No. 23-122
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950
cnmileg.net

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero
President
The Senate
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Senate President DeLeon Guerrero:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for Senate action **H. B. No. 23-104, HD1**, entitled: **“To appropriate \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) for the Twenty Five Percent (25%) retirees’ pension for all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”**, 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 Sixth Day, Third Regular Session on March 28, 2024.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment

Transmittal to the SENATE

Received by: Chaneke Boyja

Date: 3-28-24

Time: 2:01pm

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 28, 2024

Third Regular Session, 2024

H. B. 23-104, HD1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To appropriate \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) for the Twenty Five Percent (25%) retirees' pension for all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE 23RD NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Central
2 Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is in dire need
3 of revenue to pay for its obligations to its employees and inherited areas to
4 contracts that the government had entered into. The Legislature further finds that
5 the Administration along with the Legislature had implemented a ten-hour work
6 reduction for government employees. Additionally, the Legislature finds that the
7 Administration has been using its reprogramming authority to pay for the
8 constitutional obligation to the Public School System (PSS).

9 Furthermore, the Legislature finds that the Administration, through its
10 reprogramming authority, has been funding twenty-five percent of the retirees'
11 pension. The Legislature finds that those funds are becoming scarce, placing the

HOUSE BILL 23-104, HD1

1 Administration in a situation where it must decide whether to cut further expenses
2 in order to meet its obligations. The Legislature is well aware that funding retirees'
3 pension for all retirees of the CNMI cannot be compromised and cutting additional
4 hours from the hard-working employees of the Commonwealth Government will
5 be detrimental to their livelihood. Last, the Legislature finds that the Secretary of
6 Finance shall remit payments to the Commonwealth Economic Development
7 Authority for the repayment of the \$5,236,000.00. The intent of the Legislature is
8 that these funds retain their local nature, and after repayment, these funds may be
9 used in the future to address exclusively local matters of the Third Senatorial
10 District.

11 Therefore, the intent of this Act is to appropriate dividends collected by the
12 Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the
13 Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to pay 25% of the retirees' pension.
14 This includes all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

15 **Section 2. Appropriation.** Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law,
16 statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary and pursuant to the authority vested to
17 the House of Representatives (more specifically to the Saipan and Northern Islands
18 Legislative Delegation (SNILD) to appropriate dividends collected by CEDA from
19 CUC), the Legislature through the House of Representatives hereby appropriates
20 \$5,236,000.00 of the dividends collected by CEDA from CUC to pay 25% of the

1 retirees' pension, inclusive of all retirees of the Commonwealth of the Northern
2 Mariana Islands.

3 **Section 3. Reprogramming.** Funds appropriated under this act shall not be
4 reprogrammed for any other purpose and notwithstanding any provision of law, all
5 funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation.

6 **Section 4. Expenditure Authority.** The expenditure authority of the funds
7 allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be the Secretary of the Department of
8 Finance.

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

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

HOUSE BILL 23-104, HD1

1 **Section 7. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by
2 the Governor, or it becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 3/22/2024

Date: _____ Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. S. Aldan
/s/ Rep. Roman C. Benavente
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Vicente C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Manny G. T. Castro
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores
/s/ Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo
/s/ Rep. Malcolm J. Omar
/s/ Rep. Edwin K. Propst
/s/ Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas
/s/ Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:
/s/ Joseph L.G. Taijeron, Jr. (3/22/2024)
House Legal Counsel

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency (HD1) by:
/s/ Joseph M. Hallahan (3/28/2024)
House Legal Counsel