



Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
Committee on Ways & Means

CHAIRMAN BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. Box 500586 Saipan, MP 96950 (670) 664-8974 rep.attaob@cnmileg.net

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **22-18**

DATE: MARCH 17, 2022

RE: HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 22-24

The Honorable Vinnie F. Sablan
Chairman
Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your Committee on Ways and Means, to which House Local Bill No. 22-24 was referred, entitled:

“To appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10 for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion and deliberation on the bill, your Committee recommends that the Delegation pass House Local Bill No. 22-24 in the form of Substitute 1.

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II. ANALYSIS:

A. Purpose:

The purpose of House Local Bill No. 22-24 is to appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10 for the Third Senatorial District.

B. Committee Substitute:

Your Committee recommended that House Local Bill No. 22-24 be in the form of Substitute 1 to appropriate \$1,000,000.00 to the Northern Marianas College and the other \$1,000,000.00 to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation.

C. Comments:

Pursuant to Rule IX, Section 8 of the SNILD Official Rules of Procedure, comments were solicited from the following on October 4, 2021:

- 1) The Honorable David M. Apatang, Mayor of Saipan;
- 2) The Honorable Vicente C. Santos Jr., Mayor of the Northern Islands; and
- 3) The Honorable Ana Demapan-Castro, Chairperson, 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council.

To date, comments were received from the Mayor of Saipan only. Comments have been attached as part of this committee report.

Oral comments were received from the following on Thursday, March 17, 2022 during the SNILD Ways and Means Committee meeting held in the House Chamber at 10 a.m.

- 1) Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, President, Northern Marianas College.

Dr. Deleon Guerrero is in full support of HLB22-24, S1.

D. Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that pursuant to 4 CMC §2307(c) which reads:

“Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the moneys collected for the application and exclusive license pursuant to 4 CMC § 2306 shall be deposited into the Commonwealth Treasury to be kept separate and apart from the general funds of the Commonwealth government which shall be allocated to and available for appropriation as follows:

(c) \$11,000,000 of the annual license fee shall be allocated to the Third Senatorial District as follows:

(1) \$1,500,000 is continuously appropriated, not subject to fiscal year limitation, for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA); and

(2) \$9,500,000 shall be appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.”

Your Committee further finds that Subsection 2307(c)(2), allocates funds from the exclusive gaming license fees, to the Third Senatorial District to be appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. The allocated funds are appropriated to fund programs and projects in the Third Senatorial District.

Your Committee finds that the funds from Fiscal Year 2021 in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 appropriated in HLB 22-24, S1 will be for the following:

(1) \$1,000,000.00 for the Northern Marianas College to assist and enable the advancement of infrastructure development and related activities for the reconstruction of the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, expenditure of the funds of this Act shall be the President of the Northern Marianas College or his/her designee; and

(2) \$1,000,000.00 for the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) for the operations of CHCC, provided that \$200,060.00 shall be appropriated to procure the following critical items:

- 1) \$150,000.00 to upgrade Building II (Building Management System (BMS)) Lighting System;
- 2) \$5,060.00 to purchase an AutoCAD Program;
- 3) \$30,000.00 to purchase a blueprint scanner/printer; and
- 4) \$15,000.00 to purchase special plumbing tools.

Expenditure authority shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his/her designee.

Your Committee finds that the Northern Marianas College and the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation requires a substantial amount of funds to implement/complete programs/projects, however the committee can only do so much with the limited amount of funds available for appropriation. The Committee is hopeful that NMC and CHCC will welcome the funding and adjust and/or supplement their expenses accordingly.

Your Committee also included a reprogramming provision to ensure that funds appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose. In addition, the expenditure authority shall submit to the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation a detail report showing the expenditure of the funds at the completion of appropriations of this Act. Furthermore, the funds allocated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation(s).

Your Committee further finds that all of the items listed for appropriation in HLB 22-24, SI are for a specific and public purpose, therefore your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of House Local Bill No. 22-24 and recommends its passage in the form of Substitute 1.

E. Legislative History:

House Local Bill No. 22-24 was introduced by Representative Celina R. Babauta on October 01, 2021 and was subsequently referred to the SNILD Standing Committee on Ways and Means on October 4, 2021 for disposition.

F. Cost Benefit:

House Local Bill No. 22-24, Substitute 1 proposes to appropriate the sum of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10 allotted

Vice Chairman, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua - Rep. Roy A. Ada - Rep. John Paul P. Sablan - Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez - Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai - Rep. Ralph N. Yumul - Rep. Joel C. Camacho - Rep. Richard T. Lizama

March 17, 2022

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to the Third Senatorial District. Therefore, the enactment of House Local Bill No. 22-24, S1 will not result in additional cost to the CNMI Government.

III. CONCLUSION:

The Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of House Local Bill No. 22-24 and recommends its passage in the form of Substitute 1.

Respectfully submitted,




Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
Chairman




Sen. Justo S. Quitugua
Vice Chairman

Rep. Roy A. Ada
Member



Rep. Joel C. Camacho
Member



Rep. Richard T. Lizama
Member



Rep. John Paul P. Sablan
Member



Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez
Member

Rep. Denita Kaipat Yangetmai
Member



Rep. Ralph N. Yumul
Member

Reviewed by: 

Legal Counsel

Attachment: Mayor of Saipan, Mayor's Comm. 22-25
NMC PRESIDENT, MARCH 16, 2022

Vice Chairman, Sen. Justo S. Quitugua - Rep. Roy A. Ada - Rep. John Paul P. Sablan - Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez - Rep. Denita K. Yangetmai - Rep. Ralph N. Yumul - Rep. Joel C. Camacho - Rep. Richard T. Lizama



David M. Apatang
Mayor of Saipan

Mayor's Comm. **22-25**
(SNILD)

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

MUNICIPALITY OF SAIPAN
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P.O. Box 501457 Saipan, MP 96950



Tel: (670) 234-6208 • Fax: (670) 234-1190 • Email: saipanmayor@mos.gov.mp

October 12, 2021

The Honorable Vinnie F. Sablan
Chairman
Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
Twenty-second Northern Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature
Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950
VIA PERSONAL DELIVERY

**THE OFFICE OF
SENATOR VINNIE F. SABLAN**
DATE: 10/14/21 @ 10:27am
REC'D BY: [Signature]

Re: Comments on House Local Bill No. 22-24

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for giving us this moment to offer our comments on the above-numbered local bill.

Our lone public post-secondary institution sustained millions of dollars of losses when Super Typhoon Yutu rolled into our island in October 2015. Since then the Northern Marianas College has been focused on resuming classes and, at the same time, seeking financing for rebuilding and developing a new, better campus. The proposed appropriation will increase the college's efforts in timely moving forward on its plans to build a new campus.

Because of the need to support our only public post-secondary learning institution on island, we support the bill.

Thank you for receiving our comments on House Local Bill No. 22-24.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID M. APATANG
Mayor, Municipality of Saipan

[Signature]
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@10:27am



Northern Marianas College

Office of the President

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 237-6700 • Fax: (670) 234-1270
www.marianas.edu

March 16, 2022

NMC Corr. no. 22-012

The Honorable Blas Jonathan T. Attao
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Dear Chairman Attao:

I want to start by thanking you for your leadership and for giving the Northern Marianas College (NMC) the opportunity to provide comments on House Local Bill 22-24, which will appropriate \$2 million to our islands' only public institution of higher education. I also thank Representative Celina R. Babauta for her leadership in introducing this critical piece of legislation.

The bill, if enacted into law, will provide NMC with immediate financial resources to support the evolving needs of our workforce development, training, and academic programs, while also address critical needs under our Facilities Master Plan related to the reconstruction of its As Terlaje campus, which was devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu.

An important element of our Facilities Master Plan and our overall rebuild is Fina Sisu Lane, which runs through the western side of the As Terlaje campus. Currently, vehicular traffic is circulating through the NMC campus. NMC needs to reclaim the campus for the construction of classrooms, the new campus quad, and student safety. NMC has requested through government partners for Fina Sisu Lane to be opened and paved as construction of new buildings is projected to begin this summer. In coordination with the Infrastructure Recovery Office (IRP), the Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Department of Public Lands (DPL), NMC needs \$1 million to move this process forward. Funding under House Local Bill 22-24 will not only address this critical priority, but will also allow the College to continue its work to build a new, state-of-the-art, and energy-efficient campus on As Terlaje.

Passage of the bill will immediately assist NMC in financing the auxiliary costs of construction of our new campus, provide additional support for our academic programs, and place the College in a better financial position this fiscal year to address critical priorities for our students and our community.

On behalf of the NMC Proa Tribe, I respectfully recommend the expedient passage of House Local Bill 22-24. I thank you, your Committee on Ways and Means, and the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for your commitment and service to the people of the Commonwealth over the years, as well as your partnership with NMC.

I look forward to maintaining dialogue on additional legislative assistance to meet the evolving needs of our capital improvement projects as we build a new NMC for our community. Despite devastating typhoons, austerity measures, and a global pandemic, nothing has sunk our proa. Indeed, our proa sails ahead, with a focus on learning, lifting the tide for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Galvin Deleon Guerrero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD
President

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2021

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2021

H. L. B. 22-24, S1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10 for the Third Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT

DELEGATION PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF

THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:

1 SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

2 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate Two Million Dollars
3 (\$2,000,000.00) from fees collected pursuant to Public Law 20-10 for the Third
4 Senatorial District.

5 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATIONS.

6 Notwithstanding any provisions, statutes, laws or regulations to the
7 contrary, the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation hereby
8 appropriates Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from the fees collected pursuant
9 to Public Law 20-10 for the Third Senatorial District as follows:

1 (A) \$1,000,000.00 for the Northern Marianas College to assist and enable the
2 advancement of infrastructure development and related activities for the
3 reconstruction of the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus,
4 expenditure of the funds under Section 2(A) of this Act shall be the
5 President of the Northern Marianas College or his/her designee; and

6 (B) \$1,000,000.00 for the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) for
7 the operations of CHCC, provided that \$200,060.00 shall be appropriated
8 to procure the following critical items:

- 9 1) \$150,000.00 to upgrade Building II (Building Management
10 System (BMS)) Lighting System;
- 11 2) \$5,060.00 to purchase an AutoCAD Program;
- 12 3) \$30,000.00 to purchase a blueprint scanner/printer; and
- 13 4) \$15,000.00 to purchase special plumbing tools.

14 Expenditure authority shall be the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his/her
15 designee.

16 **SECTION 3. REPROGRAMMING.**

17 Notwithstanding any laws, provisions or regulations to the contrary, funds
18 appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose.

19 **SECTION 4. REPORTING.**

20 The expenditure authority shall submit to the Chairperson of the Saipan and
21 Northern Islands Legislative Delegation a detail report showing the expenditure of

1 the funds at the completion of appropriations in Section 2 of this Act.

2 **SECTION 5. FUND DISTRIBUTION.**

3 Funds appropriated under Section 2 of this Act shall be distributed
4 accordingly to the intended purpose and or entity upon this Act becoming law.

5 **SECTION 6. FISCAL YEAR.**

6 The funds allocated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation(s).

7 **SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.**

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

13 **SECTION 8. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

21 **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

Prefiled: 9/23/2021

Date: 9/23/2021 Introduced by: /s/ Rep. Celina R. Babauta

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

 /s/ Joseph L.G. Tajeron, Jr.
House Legal Counsel