



COPY

THE SENATE

Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P. O. Box 500129
Saipan, MP 96950


March 12, 2024

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Speaker Villagomez:

I have the honor of returning without amendments House Bill No. 23-80, entitled – To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs.” The Senate passed H.B. No. 23-80 by the unanimous vote, a quorum being present, in its 5th Day, Third Regular Session on March 12, 2024.

Sincerely,


Dolores S. Bermudes
Senate Clerk

Transmitted to HOUSE:

Received by: Lela Date: 3/12/2024 Time: 11:41 am



Hse. Comm. No. 23-70

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

S-Passed 3/12/24


October 5, 2023

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. 23-80**, entitled: "**To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs.**", 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 Fifth Day, Second Regular Session on October 5, 2023.

Sincerely yours,


Linda B. Muña
House Clerk

Attachment

Transmittal to the SENATE

Received by: 

Date: 10/5/23

Time: 2:53pm

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2023

Second Regular Session, 2023

H. B. 23-80

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs.

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

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Commonwealth of the Northern
2 Mariana Islands (CNMI) anticipates receiving substantial payments from
3 settlement of litigation against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription
4 opioid analgesics, pharmacies dispensing prescription opioid analgesics and related
5 parties for alleged contributions to high rates of drug overdoses and other drug-
6 related harms.

7 Using this money to address substance use disorders, overdoses, and drug-
8 related harms will require dedication, resources, and many years. Directing opioid
9 litigation proceeds to establish, sustain, and expand substance use abatement
10 services for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction in the Northern
11 Mariana Islands will represent a critically important down payment on work to be
12 done.

1 This bill establishes a dedicated fund for substance abuse disorder
2 abatement. This bill also establishes a Council to handle the award of monies to
3 agencies that engage in substance abuse disorder abatement.

4 **Section 2. Amendment.** Title 3, Division 2, Chapter 1 of the Commonwealth
5 Code is amended by adding a new Article 11 as follows:

6 **“Article 11. Opioid Settlement Fund and Council**

7 **§ 21111. Opioid Settlement Fund.**

8 (a) Fund established. The Opioid Litigation Proceeds Fund is hereby
9 established in the Commonwealth treasury. The Fund shall operate as a
10 dedicated fund to be administered by the Department of Finance. Monies in
11 the Fund shall not revert to the General Fund of the Commonwealth
12 treasury.

13 (b) Credits to Fund. There shall be credited to the Fund:

14 (1) Proceeds received by the Commonwealth in connection with
15 legal claims made against manufacturers and distributors of prescription
16 opioid analgesics, pharmacies that dispensed prescription opioid analgesics,
17 and related parties, regardless of whether such proceeds are received as a
18 lump sum or series of payments to be made over a period of time;

19 (2) Monies appropriated by or transferred to the Fund by the
20 Legislature;

1 (3) Gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other monies received by
2 the Commonwealth on the Fund's behalf; and

3 (4) Any interest in monies in the Fund.

4 (c) Permissible expenditures. Monies in the Fund shall be spent only
5 for substance use disorder abatement purposes, upon the approval of the
6 Opioid Proceeds Council (Council), and through the following entities:

7 (1) The Hinemlu O'hala Eteramenti (H.O.P.E.) Recovery Center
8 under the Office of the Governor's Substance Abuse, Addiction and
9 Rehabilitation Program;

10 (2) The Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Clinic under the
11 Community Guidance Center (CGC);

12 (3) The Drug Court Division of the CNMI Judiciary;

13 (4) Any non-profit that engages in substance abuse prevention; and

14 (5) The Council, provided that administration expenses shall not
15 exceed five (5) percent of the Fund's balance on an annual basis.

16 (d) Prospective use. Unless otherwise required by controlling court
17 order to refund to the federal government a portion of the Proceeds, monies
18 in the Fund shall be used for prospective purposes and shall not be used to
19 reimburse expenditures incurred prior to the effective date of this Act;

20 (e) Disbursement. Funds disbursements shall be made by the
21 Secretary of Finance upon the approval of the Council. The Secretary of

1 Finance shall not make or refuse to make any disbursement allowable under
2 this subsection without the approval of the Council. The Secretary of
3 Finance shall adhere to the Council's decisions regarding disbursement of
4 monies from the Fund so long as a disbursement is a permissible
5 expenditure.

6 (f) Expenditures Supplementary. Monies expended from the Fund
7 for the purposes set forth in this Act shall be supplemental to, and shall not
8 supplant or take the place of, any other funds, including insurance benefits
9 or local, state, or federal funding, that would otherwise have been expended
10 for such purposes.

11 (g) Investment. As directed by the Attorney General, the Secretary
12 of Finance shall have the responsibility for the investment and reinvestment
13 of monies in the Fund. On or before January 31 of each year, the Secretary
14 of Finance shall issue a public report, free of charge and available online.

15 **§ 21112. Opioid Proceeds Council.**

16 (a) Council established. There is established an Opioid Proceeds
17 Council.

18 (b) Purpose. The purpose of the Proceeds Council is to ensure that
19 proceeds received by the Commonwealth pursuant to this Act are allocated
20 and spent on the Commonwealth's substance use disorder abatement,
21 infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources for prevention,

1 treatment, recovery, and harm reduction; and to ensure accountability and
2 transparency in allocating monies for the Fund.

3 (c) Council Membership.

4 (1) The Council shall be composed of three (3) voting members. The
5 Council may approve nonvoting members as needed.

6 (2) The Council voting members shall exist as follows:

7 (A) Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth
8 Healthcare Corporation or designee;

9 (B) Attorney General or designee;

10 (C) Governor or designee.

11 (d) Council duties and powers.

12 (1) The Council shall have the following duties and powers:

13 (A) Recommend and approve policies and procedures for the
14 administration of the Council and for the application, awarding, and
15 disbursement of monies from the Fund, to be used for the purposes
16 set forth in this Act;

17 (B) Recommend and approve goals, objectives, and their
18 rationales, sustainability plans, and performance indicators relating
19 to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm
20 reduction efforts;

1 (C) Approve awards of monies from the Fund exclusively
2 for permissible expenditures set forth in this Act; and

3 (D) Approve suspension of allocation of monies from the
4 Fund to recipients found by the Council to be substantially
5 incompliant with Council policies and procedures, rules, or
6 regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands; or to have used such
7 awards for a purpose other than an approved purpose. The Council
8 may resume approval of such allocations once the Council has
9 determined the recipient has adequately remedied the cause of such
10 suspension.

11 (2) Employ an executive director and staff to support the meetings
12 and functions of the Council and direct the day-to-day activities.

13 (e) Council Meetings.

14 (1) The Council shall hold at least quarterly public meetings each
15 year. A meeting may be called by the chair or by a majority of the Council's
16 members. Members may attend meetings in person, remotely by
17 audiovisual means, or, upon approval by the chair, by audio-only means;

18 (2) Meetings shall be publicized and held in a manner reasonably
19 designed to facilitate in-person and live-stream attendance by residents
20 throughout the Commonwealth. The Council shall function in a manner
21 consistent with the Open Government Act, as amended and codified at

1 1 CMC §§ 9901-9917 and with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act,
2 as amended.

3 (f) Voting. For each meeting of the Council, a majority of the
4 members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. If there
5 is a quorum, then all actions of the Council shall be taken by an affirmative
6 vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting.

7 (g) Compensation. Members may be reimbursed for actual and
8 necessary expenses for travel to attend a Council meeting, which shall take
9 place in the CNMI.

10 (h) Conflicts of interest. In compliance with the Government Ethics
11 Code at 1 CMC §§ 8501-8577, the members must disclose to the Council,
12 refrain from participating in discussions and recuse themselves from voting
13 on any matter before the Council if members have a conflict of interest.

14 (i) Termination. The Council will terminate when all monies
15 received pursuant to the Fund have been received and disbursed unless the
16 Attorney General certifies that additional monies are anticipated.

17 **§ 21113. Court Order and Regulations.**

18 The Council shall disburse monies from the Fund in a manner
19 consistent with the limitations on uses of litigation proceeds set forth in any
20 controlling court order. The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations
21 consistent with the controlling court order and this Act.

1 **§ 21114. Reporting.**

2 Not later than October 31 of each year, beginning one year after the
3 initial deposit of proceeds into the Fund, the Council shall provide a written
4 report to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senate
5 President, and Attorney General, detailing the Council's activities during
6 the prior calendar year. The report shall be published on a website
7 established by the Council."

8 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provision of this Act of application thereof
9 to any circumstance is held invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act shall not
10 be affected nor diminished.

11 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall
12 not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired
13 under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the
14 statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted
15 under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect
16 of 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.

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

Prefiled: 9/27/2023

HOUSE BILL 23-80

Date: _____ Introduced by: s/ Rep. Joel C. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Vincent R. S. Aldan
/s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao
/s/ Rep. Angelo A. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Diego V. F. Camacho
/s/ Rep. Manny G. T. Castro
/s/ Rep. Marissa R. Flores
/s/ Rep. Julie M. A. Ogo
/s/ Rep. John Paul P. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ John M. Bradley
House Legal Counsel



The Senate
NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500129
SAIPAN, MP 96950

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **23-75**
Date: February 22, 2024
RE: House Bill No. 23-80

S. Adonbe Q 3/12/23 *[Signature]*

Honorable Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Madam President:

Your Committee on Fiscal Affairs, to which was referred House Bill No. 23-80, entitled:

“To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs”,

begs leave to report as follows:

I. RECOMMENDATION:

After considerable discussion and deliberation, your Committee recommends the passage of House Bill No. 23-80 in its original form.

II. ANALYSIS:

A) Purpose:

The purpose of House Bill No. 23-80 is to establish a fund dedicated to substance abuse disorder abatement; and establish a council to oversee the award of monies to agencies that engage in substance abuse disorder abatement.

B) Committee Findings:

Your Committee finds that the Office of the Attorney General has represented the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in multidistrict litigation against manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies that dispense prescription opioid analgesics, and related parties. This legal action was initiated as a result of the alleged role these parties played, and holding them accountable, for contributing to the alarming rates of drug overdoses and other drug-related harms across the United States and its territories.

Your Committee further finds that the Commonwealth government stands to receive substantial payments from the settlement of the multidistrict litigation. These payments to the Commonwealth government would greatly aid the continued efforts to address the opioid crisis and support deterrence programs and services.

Your Committee further finds that House Bill No. 23-80 seeks to establish an Opioid Litigation Proceeds Fund (Fund) for (1) settlement payments received in relation to the legal claims made against manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies dispense prescription opioid analgesics and related parties; (2) monies appropriated by the legislature; (3) gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other monies received by the Commonwealth on behalf of the Fund; and (4) any interest in monies in the Fund. Additionally, the proposed legislation establishes the Opioid Proceeds Council to ensure accountability of the proceeds credited to the Fund are allocated and spent on substance use disorder abatement, infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction.

Your Committee met on February 22, 2024, to formally discuss the proposed legislation and review the comments submitted to the Committee. Your Committee unanimously supports the intent of the proposed legislation. During the meeting, no member objected to the passage of the proposed legislation and recommended passage of House Bill No. 23-80 in its original form.

C) Legislative History:

House Bill No. 23-80 was formally introduced by Representative Joel C. Camacho on October 5, 2023. House Bill No. 23-80 was passed by the House of Representatives during its 5th Day, 2nd Regular Session. House Bill No. 23-80 was transmitted to the Senate on October 5, 2023, and subsequently referred to the Senate Standing Committee on Fiscal Affairs for disposition.

D) Public Hearing and Comment:

1. Public Hearing. No public hearing was scheduled for House Bill No. 23-80. However, a Committee Meeting, which is open to the public, was held on February 22, 2024. See below for further details.

2. Committee Meeting. The proposed legislation made its first appearance during the scheduled committee meeting convened on February 22, 2024. The Committee Meeting notices and agenda were officially posted on February 19, 2024, on various legislative forums and social media sites to invite members of the general public to provide comments as indicated under *Item No. III. Public Comments* of the Committee Agenda. However, no public comment was received on the proposed legislation by your Committee.
3. Written Comment. Your Committee requested for comments with a deadline to respond by February 5, 2024. To date, the status of comments received from the forgoing government/private entities are as follows:
 - a. Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, letter dated February 5, 2024
 - b. Community Guidance Center, email dated January 29, 2024
 - c. HOPE Recovery Center, email dated February 2, 2024
 - d. Office of the Attorney General, letter dated January 11, 2024

E) Estimated Fiscal Cost:

The enactment of House Bill No. 23-80 may not result in additional expenses to the CNMI government as the proposed legislation seeks to establish an Opioid Litigation Proceeds Fund and the Opioid Proceeds Council. Through the establishment of the Council, their duty to oversee credits made to the Fund primarily from settlement payments resulting from the multidistrict litigation against manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies that dispense prescription opioid analgesics, and related parties ensures accountability of these litigation proceeds for the benefit and wellbeing of the Commonwealth.

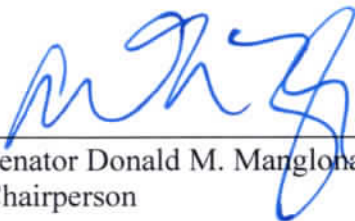
F) Summary of Committee Amendments:

Your Committee made no amendments to the proposed legislation.

III. CONCLUSION:

Your Committee agrees with the intent and purpose of the proposed legislation and recommends passage of House Bill No. 23-80 in its original form.

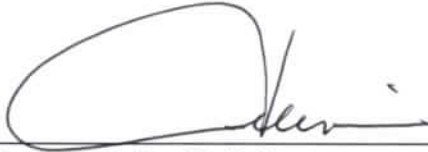
Respectfully submitted,



Senator Donald M. Manglona
Chairperson

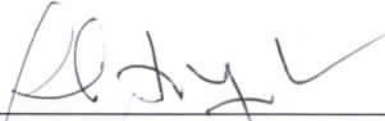


Senator Corina L. Magofna
Vice Chairperson



Senator Celina R. Babauta
Member

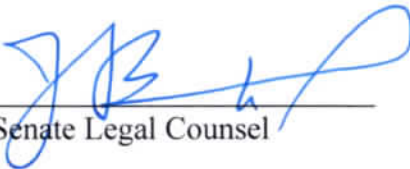
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors
Member



Senator Paul A. Mangiona
Member

Senator Dennis C. Mendiola
Member

Reviewed by:



Senate Legal Counsel

Attachments:

1. *House Communication No. 23-⁷⁰ transmitting House Bill No. 23-80 entitled: "To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs."*
2. *Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, letter dated February 5, 2024*
3. *Community Guidance Center, email dated January 29, 2024*
4. *HOPE Recovery Center, email dated February 2, 2024*
5. *Office of the Attorney General, letter dated January 11, 2024*



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

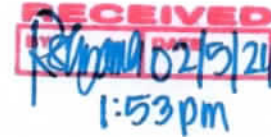
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1178 Hinemlu' St. Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950



CEO-L24-411

February 5, 2024

Honorable Donald Manglona
Senate Vice-President and Chair, Fiscal Affairs Committee
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950



Re: Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) comments for House Bill 23-80, *To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs*

Håfa Adai yan Tirow, Senator Manglona and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. The CHCC, which includes behavioral health programs and services of the Community Guidance Center (CGC) under our division of Population Health, supports the goal to establish a fund and council for said opioid settlement funds to be utilized and allotted in a comprehensive and strategic manner to address the different aspects of the opioid epidemic, to lessen its impact, and to promote the safety and wellness of our CNMI individuals, families, and communities.

Specific to Section 1. Findings and Purpose -We recommend additional language to underscore the validity and necessity of prevention, treatment, and recovery measures, such as *According to the Surgeon General, substance use disorders respond to treatment like other chronic diseases. Addiction can be managed successfully, and treatment enables people to counteract addiction's powerful disruptive effects on the brain and behavior and regain control of their lives. The chronic nature of the disease means that returning to substance use is not only possible but also likely, with symptom recurrence rates like those for other well-characterized chronic medical illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.* CHCC: CGC also finds it imperative that the bill includes **Definitions** as suggested in the *Model Opioid Litigation Proceeds Act of 2021* to avoid confusion and remain in alignment with the goals of this legislation, particularly as it pertains to *Harm Reduction, Prevention, Recovery, Infrastructure, Substance Use Disorder, Evidence-based, and Treatment.*

Specific to §21111 Opioid Settlement Fund - Additional language is warranted to further clarify and protect settlement monies, such as *Monies in the Fund will (1) remain separate from the General Fund of the Commonwealth treasury; (2) do not lapse, do not revert to the General Fund, and are not otherwise subject to fiscal year limitations; and (3) are used only as intended for substance use disorder abatement, including prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction infrastructure, programs, services, supports, and resources.*

The following areas are important considerations that highlight an integrated, evidence-based approach to abating CNMI-wide substance use, including opioid use, disorder prevention, treatment, and improving recovery services and supports to impacted community members, families, and the responding workforce.

Treatment and Rehabilitation: Funding is essential to support programs and services aimed at helping individuals who are struggling with substance use disorders (SUDs) and opioid use disorders (OUDs) to access treatment and rehabilitation services.

Medication-assisted Treatment (MAT) serves as a best practice combining counseling and behavioral therapies with the use of medication to treat opioid use disorders and foster recovery effectively and comprehensively. Setting aside funds is recommended to resource counseling and other interventions, including the purchase of medications to either reverse the acute effects of an opioid overdose (i.e. Narcan and other similar drugs) or to impact opioid discontinuation. This set aside will further support House Bill 23-23 - *To establish a CNMI Drug Overdose Policy*, currently in the Senate for review and action. This well-supported legislation intends to increase access to opioid overdose medications via first responders and standing orders. CHCC is identified to coordinate with government agencies – the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) and Department of Public Safety (DPS) - for the acquisition of opioid overdose reversal medication, as well as ensure training mandates are met by conducting or approving training modules in a variety of media. Opioid settlement monies could help with the supply for first responders as well as a designated supply needed for proper training on the administration of the rescue meds not identified in the bill.

Without an existing MAT program in the CNMI and for a comprehensive needs assessment to guide CNMI data-driven needs, priorities, plans, services, and decisions, funds to hire a consultant to conduct this needs assessment serve as a necessary initial step to determining existing and potential CNMI needs, resources, and readiness levels surrounding SUD and OUDs. In preliminary anticipation of holding up a CNMI MAT program, the needs assessment will also look more closely and comprehensively into the feasibility of its required and necessary components. Developing alternative pain management strategies and similar interventions and supporting the needed resources to establish this service is yet one of several required components to comprehensive treatment intervention services.

Further, it is imperative to afford patients an avenue for safe and effective discontinuation of opioid and illicit substance dependence or misuse through elective detoxification treatment alongside psychosocial therapies and essential pharmacological treatments. Through a multi-pronged care approach, withdrawal and side effects are minimized and the withdrawal procedure's outcomes are improved, increasing the likelihood for sustained abstinence. This will most likely involve training by our CHCC physicians on current practices in addressing opioid use disorder treatment for which resources may be restricted or insufficient with existing grant funding.

Recovery. The setting aside of funds for long-term support and assistance for individuals and families affected by opioid addiction, including financial assistance, housing support, and job training programs, is recommended.

Specific to §21112. Opioids Proceeds Council - A recommended addition to the composition of voting members of the council is that of peer representation, at minimum, two additional voting members – one member in recovery and a family member of someone in recovery. A

common phrase among health, disability, and peer advocates "Nothing about Us without Us" is a fitting reminder that the population served should be kept informed of and included in opportunities to inform, make recommendations to, and guide programs, services, policies, decisions, etc. that impact them, their peers, families, and community. Considerations made to the Council should also include that of representation from Rota and Tinian.

Training. Additional to the proposed training for first responders on the administration of opioid overdose medication, opioid settlement funding could help support training for CHCC and CNMI clinicians and providers of varying disciplines and levels – from the CGC Addictions Services clinicians and the 988 Crisis Call Responders to Emergency Room providers. Such training will address and incorporate best practices in SUD and OUD screening, referral processes, treatment, and rehabilitation. Funding for recovery support groups and relevant training will promote sobriety from opioid use disorder and drive the rehabilitative and recovery program and services.

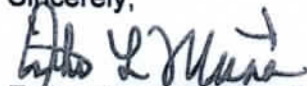
Prevention and Education: Recommended funds towards prevention and education will support initiatives that focus on preventing opioid misuse and raising awareness about the risks and consequences of opioid use disorders. Focus populations will span age and CNMI community groups that include, but are not limited to, school-aged populations; state, legislative, and judicial leaders, and representatives; providers; community organizations, parent organizations, faith-based organizations, etc.

In conclusion, the comprehensive and targeted approach by CHCC to substance abuse abatement requires significant support that opioid settlement funds have the potential to positively impact. It is imperative that a minimum set aside of 20% for CNMI CHCC services, resources, and supports be considered to realize this potential. A formalized mechanism to ensure transparent and accountable use of these funds, including oversight and reporting mechanisms, is also recommended. Last, a required component to plans, projects, programs, and services to be considered for funding should include impacted populations and intended outcomes on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. Staffing considerations associated with these funds, as well as salary ranges and minimum qualification requirements, will also need to be identified to ensure quality services and optimum use of settlement monies.

Once again, we appreciate the Legislature's commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our island communities through our healthcare system and believe that the proposed bill, with modifications, could make a significant impact on substance abuse abatement in the CNMI.

Si Yu'us Ma'ási' yan Ghilisow.

Sincerely,



Esther Lizama Muña, PhD, MHA, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
State/Territorial Health Official



Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel <tagabuelj.la@gmail.com>

Request for Comment on House Bill 23-80

Reyna Saures <reyna.saures@chcc.health>

Mon, Jan 29, 2024 at 4:09 PM

To: Donald Manglona <sen.dmanglona@gmail.com>

Cc: Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel <tagabuelj.la@gmail.com>, "jabbermudes@gmail.com" <jabbermudes@gmail.com>, "Lester M. Paul" <LesterMpaul@gmail.com>, Rae Lizama <raegurllizama.670@gmail.com>

Good afternoon, Vice President Manglona,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to H.B. 23-80.

Please note that CGC comments will be included and represented in CHCC's official response by the noted deadline.

Have a pleasant evening,
Reyna

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Donald Manglona <sen.dmanglona@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2024 1:26 PM

To: Reyna Saures <reyna.saures@chcc.health>

Cc: Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel <tagabuelj.la@gmail.com>; jabbermudes@gmail.com <jabbermudes@gmail.com>; Lester M. Paul <LesterMpaul@gmail.com>; Rae Lizama <raegurllizama.670@gmail.com>

Subject: Request for Comment on House Bill 23-80

You don't often get email from sen.dmanglona@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

[Quoted text hidden]



Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel <tagabuelj.la@gmail.com>

Request for Comment on HB 23-80

Diego Sablan <diego.sablan@gov.mp>

Fri, Feb 2, 2024 at 12:25 PM

To: Donald Manglona <sen.dmanglona@gmail.com>

Cc: "Lester M. Paul" <LesterMpaul@gmail.com>, Rae Lizama

<raegurllizama.670@gmail.com>, Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel <tagabuelj.la@gmail.com>,

jabbermudes@gmail.com, Charlotte Flores <cflores.saar@outlook.com>, Esther Milne-

Camacho <milne-camacho@outlook.com>, "Velma C. Palacios"

<VC.Palacios@dof.gov.mp>

Good afternoon Chairman Manglona,

I attached the Executive Order No. 2018-07 for you and the Committee on Fiscal Affairs to review the roll of the Special Assistant for SAAR and the purpose and responsibilities of the SAAR Program in the Commonwealth which includes the administration and use of fundings for substance use abatement services for prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction in the CNMI.

I am humbly requesting for your committee to table this legislation momentarily and allow the SAAR management team and I to meet with you and your committee in person and discuss this further on how we can better administer this fundings effectively. Please let me know when it is most convenient for you and your committee to meet. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Respectfully,



Diego Mangloña Sablan

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Substance Abuse, Addiction, & Rehabilitation | SAAR

670-322-4673

670-285-3784

diego.sablan@gov.mp

Juan A Sablan Bldg.

Caller Box 1007 Capitol Hill

Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS: The information contained in and accompanying this communication may be confidential, subject to legal privilege, or otherwise protected from disclosure, and is intended solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, please delete and destroy all copies in your possession, notify the sender that you have received this communication in error, and note that any review or dissemination of, or the taking of any action in reliance on, this communication is expressly prohibited.

On Jan 30, 2024, at 11:12 AM, Diego Sablan <diego.sablan@gov.mp> wrote:

Good morning Vice-President Manglona,

Thank you for sending HB 23-80 for our comment. We will review it and submit our comment(s) on or before February 4, 2024.

Respectfully,



Diego Mangloña Sablan

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Substance Abuse, Addiction, & Rehabilitation | SAAR

670-322-4673

670-285-3784

diego.sablan@gov.mp

Juan A Sablan Bldg.

Caller Box 1007 Capitol Hill

Saipan, MP 96950

NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS: The information contained in and accompanying this communication may be confidential, subject to legal privilege, or otherwise protected from disclosure, and is intended solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, please delete and destroy all copies in your possession, notify the sender that you have received this communication in error, and note that any review or dissemination of, or the taking of any action in reliance on, this communication is expressly prohibited.

On Jan 29, 2024, at 1:15 PM, Donald Manglona
<sen.dmanglona@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon, SA Sablan,

Please see attached bill and letter requesting for your comment on HB 23-80. The committee would appreciate your comment no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 5, 2024.

Thank you!

--



Donald M. Manglona

Senate Vice-President
23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950
(w): (670) 664-8803 (c): (670) 287-3750

<012924. RFC HOPE House Bill SA Sablan.pdf>

<23-70 HB 23-80 Opioid settlement monies.pdf>



COMMONWEALTH of the NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2018-07

SUBJECT: Establishing a Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation Program ("SAAR Program") within the Office of the Governor and appointing a Special Assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation ("Special Assistant") to head the establishment, operation and administration of the SAAR Program

WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction in the Commonwealth negatively affects all people, of all ages, in all communities, at all income levels; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction has caused and continues to cause drug trafficking and other criminal offenses throughout the Commonwealth which erodes our way of life and endangers all citizens; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction has destroyed the fabric of our culture within our homes and families; and

WHEREAS, substance abuse and addiction has caused an increasing number of criminal activities in the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in addition to law enforcement, one of the best forms of preventing or ameliorating the substance abuse and addiction crises and its related social ills is through prevention programs and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, because government services and resources are scarce, it is not feasible or effective to rely solely on state social service agencies or law enforcement to resolve the substance abuse crisis, all Commonwealth citizens must play an important role in helping to eradicate this scourge from our Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, public and private substance abuse, addiction and rehabilitation services are scattered and often uncoordinated; and

WHEREAS, having a single point of responsibility, authority and coordination would greatly increase the provision and effectiveness of substance abuse, addiction and rehabilitation services to the community and individuals most in need of those services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph DLG Torres, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island, and in order to achieve effective and efficient government administration so as to better serve the interests of the Commonwealth and its people,

It is hereby **ORDERED:**

1. There is established in the Office of the Governor the Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation Program which shall be headed by a Special Assistant for Substance Abuse, Addiction and Rehabilitation, who shall be appointed by and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The SAAR Program's function is to serve as the principal public authority to strengthen, organize, monitor, coordinate and provide services for substance abuse, addiction and rehabilitation in the Commonwealth.

2. The Special Assistant shall coordinate all activities of the Commonwealth Government relating to substance abuse, addiction and rehabilitation including education, prevention, interdiction, treatment, and rehabilitation. Toward this, the Special Assistant shall implement policies and procedures towards substance abuse and addiction prevention and recovery

3. The heads of Public Health, Finance, Community and Cultural Affairs, Public Safety, and all other relevant agencies shall advise the Special Assistant regarding programs and activities of their respective offices and departments relating to substance abuse, addiction and rehabilitation and shall coordinate such programs and activities with each other and with the Special Assistant; provided that, nothing in this subsection shall be taken to require advice or coordination where such action would compromise a pending investigation or legal proceeding or would violate any law.

4. The Special Assistant shall also coordinate with private and voluntary organizations, religious groups, businesses, health care practitioners (including practitioners of traditional medicine) and other persons or groups in the Commonwealth expressing an interest in combating substance abuse and addiction as well as providing rehabilitation service for needful individuals. The Special Assistant is authorized to enter into memorandums of understanding or agreements with the above described community members and stakeholders to ensure collaboration of services.

5. The Special Assistant may stimulate or supplement programs and activities conducted by other agencies, or may initiate new programs and activities, subject to the availability of funding.

6. All applications for grants and grant renewals from the Federal Government or other sources in the areas of drug control and substance abuse shall be coordinated and require approval of the Special Assistant.

7. The Special Assistant shall utilize funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Office of the Governor and designated for such purpose by the Governor or Legislature; and may, with the approval of the Governor, employ staff or procure the services of independent contractors.

8. The SAAR Program and the Special Assistant are granted possession and control of the public land lot known as Lot No. 006 A 01 together with its buildings and appurtenances for use of the SAAR Program's Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti ("H.O.P.E.") Recovery Center. The heads of other agencies of government are directed to coordinate with and aid the Special Assistant in order to effectuate the SAAR Program's possession and control of the premises and to maximize the premises' use.

9. The SAAR Program and the position of Special Assistant shall continue in existence indefinitely for so long as the program is needed to serve the people of the Commonwealth.

SIGNED AND PROMULGATED on this 8th day of June 2018.



RALPH DLG. TORRES
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Attorney General

2nd Floor Hon. Juan A. Sablan Memorial Bldg.
Caller Box 10007, Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

LILLIAN A. TENORIO
Deputy Attorney General

VIA EMAIL: sen.dmanglona@gmail.com

January 11, 2024

OAGSEN: 2024-002
LSR No. 24-012

Hon. Donald M. Manglona
Chairman, Committee on Fiscal Affairs
The Senate
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Subject: H.B. 23-80 (To establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs)

Dear Chairman Manglona:


Thank you for asking for my comments on H.B. 23-80 which would establish a fund from opioid settlement monies and a council to oversee funding for substance abuse abatement programs.

As you may know my office has represented the Commonwealth in the multidistrict litigation against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioid analgesics, pharmacies dispense prescription opioid analgesics and related parties for alleged contributions to high rates of drug overdoses and other drug-related harms in the United States. The Commonwealth has joined a majority of states and territories in settlements with several manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies, and marketing firms. The Commonwealth has received over \$1 million. Unlike the tobacco settlement funding, the settlement agreements which have been reduced to consent judgments approved by the Superior Court, the funding in this multidistrict litigation is restricted to substance abuse disorder abatement, including prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction infrastructure programs, services, supports. The funds cannot be spent on other programs.

My office participated in its drafting based on model legislation and provided copies of the settlement agreements with several drug manufacturers including J&J, distributors like McKesson, and marketing firms like McKinsey for its marketing of opioid drugs. I support H.B. 23-80.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


EDWARD MANIBUSAN
Attorney General

cc: All Members, The Senate

Civil Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7500
Facsimile: (670) 664-2349

Criminal Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7600
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

Attorney General's Investigation Division
Telephone: (670) 237-7628
Facsimile: (670) 234-7016

Victim Witness Advocacy Unit
Telephone: (670) 237-7602
Facsimile: (670) 664-2349