



# House of Representatives

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586  
SAIPAN, MP 96950

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2/11/2023

Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedures and the authority under the NMI Constitution, the Speaker of the House of Representatives announces that the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene the following open and public meeting:

**Meeting:** House of Representatives Third Day, First Regular Session  
**Date and Time:** Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 2:00 PM  
**Location:** House Chamber, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill

Copies of this notice, the official Session call, and the agenda have been filed in the Office of the House Clerk, 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.net](http://www.cnmileg.net))

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives on or before the meeting date. Oral testimony may be presented during the meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building  
P. O. BOX 500586  
Saipan, MP 96950

EDMUND SABLAN VILLAGOMEZ  
SPEAKER


## MEMORANDUM

DATE : 10 February 2023  
TO : ALL HOUSE MEMBERS  
FROM : Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez   
SUBJECT : Call for Session, 3<sup>rd</sup> Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

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Pursuant to the House Rules of Procedure and the authority vested in me under the NMI Constitution, I hereby call for the **3<sup>rd</sup> Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session for Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 2:00 p.m.** in the House Chamber.

cc: Senate President  
House Clerk  
LB Director  
SAPLR  
Media

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# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION 2023

SESSION DAY	CALENDAR DAY	TIME
3rd Day, First Regular Session	Wednesday, February 15, 2023	2:00 p.m.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

*A Moment of Silence*

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- 3. ADOPTION OF JOURNALS – (None)**
- 4. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**
  - A. House Bills:*
  - B. House Local Bills:*
  - C. House Legislative Initiatives:*
- 5. INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

*A. House Resolutions:*

### **H. RES. NO. 23-4**

To honorably commend and pay just tribute to the life and legacy of the late Honorable Edward DLG Pangelinan for his relentless dedication and countless contributions in the formation and continued existence of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Prefiled by: REPRESENTATIVES MARISSA R. FLORES, BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO, ROMAN C. BENAVENTE, ANGELO A. CAMACHO, MANNY G. T. CASTRO, JOSEPH A. FLORES, THOMAS J. DLC. MANGLONA, JULIE M. A. OGO, MALCOM J. OMAR, JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN, EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ, DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI, and RALPH N. YUMUL** (*for themselves*)

**B.** *House Joint Resolutions:*

**C.** *House Commemorative Resolutions:*

**D.** *House Concurrent Resolutions:*

## **6. MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR**

GOV. COMM. 23-4: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. No. 22-47, SD1, HD1, *(To amend 1 CMC § 2484(b) to authorize the Central Statistics Division to request vital statistics data and fish, game, wildlife and endangered and threatened species data.)* Became **Public Law 22-27** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-5: (1/31/2023) ) Informing the House that he signed into law, S. B. No. 22-78, HD1, *(To amend 4 CMC § 1205 to include the Northern Marianas Technical Institute as a qualified educational institution to benefit from the education tax credit.)* Became **Public Law 22-28** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-6: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-39, HS1, *(To amend Title 6, Division 6, Chapter 5. Witnesses, by adding a new section 6503. Witness to Outcry of Abuse; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-29** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-7: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-85, *(To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 1, Article 7 of the Commonwealth Code by permitting private employers to exercise a voluntary veterans' preference in employment relating to veterans' relief; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-30** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-8: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-120, *(To amend 4 CMC § 1202, to exclude local stimulus payments from taxation.)*. Became **Public Law 22-31** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-9: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-18, HD1, *(To amend Division 4 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code relating to disposition of offenders and sentencing to provide criteria for imposition of enhanced sentencing of defendants for crimes motivated by hate.)*. Became **Public Law 22-32** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-10: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-77, HS1, SD1 *(To establish the Health Network Program (HNP) under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC); to provide for the orderly transition of medical referral services administration and operations to CHCC; to write off outstanding balances of medical referral promissory notes; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-33** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-11: (1/31/2023) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. B. No. 22-3, SD1 *(To amend 9 CMC §2101(d) by providing the option for the motor vehicle liability insurance expiration to be consistent with the vehicle registration expiration; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Public Law 22-34** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-12: (received 2/2/2023) Informing the House that he vetoed S. L. B. No. 22-14, *(To ban the use of plastic checkout bags in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.)*. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 23-13: (2/2/2023 received 2/7/2023) **Executive Order 2023-02 – RENEWAL–Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL–Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

**7. SENATE COMMUNICATIONS – (None)**

**8. HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

HSE. COMM. 23-22: (2/9/2023) From your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that **H. L. B. No. 23-1**, entitled, To appropriate \$800,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59; and for other purposes.”, be transmitted to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) for its action. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 23-23: (2/9/2023) From your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that **H. L. B. No. 23-2**, entitled, To appropriate \$68,000.00 from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.”, be transmitted to the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation (TALD) for its action. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 23-24: (2/9/2023) From your Committee on Ways and Means recommends that **H. L. B. No. 23-3**, entitled, To appropriate up to \$199,674.79 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the First Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.”, be transmitted to the Rota Legislative Delegation (RLD) for its action. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 23-25: (2/10/2023) From Representative Yumul, WM Chair, appointing two additional members to the Ways and Means Committee’s composition. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 23-26: (2/10/2023) From Representative Yumul informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning February 11, 2023 and returning February 19, 2023 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [For info]

**9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH – (None)**

**10. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 23-1: (1/30/2023) From the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) submitting *CUC’s FY 2023—First Quarter Expenditure Report (Unaudited)*. [For info]

**11. MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS**

MISC. COMM. 23-9: (1/31/2023) From the CEO, Commonwealth HealthCare Corporation (CHCC) to the governor re: *CHCC request appropriation of \$3,487,754 to adequately fund the medical referral program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of FY 2023.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 23-10: (2/3/2023) Transmitting a certified copy of RLD Resolution No. 23-1, entitled, *“To adopt the Official Rules of Procedure of the Rota Legislative Delegation for the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.”*, which was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on January 23, 2023. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 23-11: (2/3/2023) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Resolution No. 23-1, entitled, *“To adopt the Interim Rules of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.”*, which was adopted by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation on January 18, 2023. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 23-12: (2/9/2023) Transmitting a certified copy of SNILD Resolution No. 23-1, entitled, *“To adopt the Interim Rules of Procedure of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.”*, which was adopted by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation on January 20, 2023. [For info]

**12. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES – (None)**

**13. REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES – (None)**

**14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – (None)**

**15. RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

Resolution	Subject	Action

**16. BILL CALENDAR**

Bill/Initiative	Subject	Action

**17. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

**18. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**(ADJOURNMENT)**

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## ***APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS***

**FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY:** 1<sup>st</sup> Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. NO. 23-4: To amend 10 CMC §14106 to amend the Rota Resident Identification Card fee; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023.

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

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*Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on  
February 3, 2023:*

H. B. NO. 23-1: To amend 7 CMC §4101 to lower the interest rate of civil money judgments from nine percent (9%) to three percent (3%). Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 23-2

To require the Department of Public Works to establish a solid waste transfer stations in Kagman and the southern portion of the Island of Saipan; and for other purposes.

Prefiled by: REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representative Manny G.T. Castro) -  
[WITHDRAWN-2/3/2023]

H. B. NO. 23-3: To impose a toll fee to be paid by passengers who enter the Marpi area; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. ROMAN C. BENAVENTE of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 23-4: To establish a process for the delivery of a State of the Commonwealth Address to the Legislature by the Governor. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 23-5: To amend 2 CMC §§ 5631 and 5109 to authorize gill net, locally known as “tekking” in the Third Senatorial District and provide additional penalties for any violations. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

H. B. NO. 23-6: To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Marissa R. Flores, Edwin K. Propst, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 23-7: To amend 4 CMC §1401(d) to increase revenues by properly taxing tobacco products. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Marissa R. Flores, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 23-8: To require all contractors to be licensed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 23-9: To require legislative appropriation for all non-locally-sourced funds allocated for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 23-10: To amend 8 CMC §1204, as amended by Public Law 22-25, to create an exemption to the requirement that a marriage certificate include the “places of residence”. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Joseph A. Flores, Malcom J. Omar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 23-11: To amend Title 1, Division 8 of the Commonwealth Code by establishing a Veterans' Preference employment provision for the CNMI Government; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs.

H. B. NO. 23-12: To amend 1 CMC § 7831 to provide for direct legislative appropriation to the Office of the Public Auditor, and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. B. NO. 23-13: To amend the Crimes and Criminal Procedure Code definitions of dangerous weapon and serious bodily injury. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. B. NO. 23-14: To amend the punishment for the crime of vandalism to include the option of confinement. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. B. NO. 23-15: To amend Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code by adding a new Chapter to enact provisions associated with public corruption, other unlawful influence and related offenses for public officials; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. B. NO. 23-16: To reduce start-up costs for small businesses. Introduced by REP. MANNY G. T. CASTRO of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R.S. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism on February 6, 2023.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. B. NO. 23-17: To provide clarity relative to the crime of promoting prison contraband, or otherwise known as the Contraband Reform Act of 2023; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on February 6, 2023.

H. L. B. NO. 23-1: To appropriate \$800,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. BLAS JONATHAN "BJ" T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R.S. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Malcom J. Omar, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. L. B. NO. 23-2: To appropriate \$68,000.00 from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. L. B. NO. 23-3: To appropriate up to \$199,674.79 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the First Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. L. B. NO. 23-4: To amend 10 CMC §14106 to amend the Rota Resident Identification Card fee; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023.

H. RES. NO. 23-2: Respectfully requesting the Secretary of the Department of Public Works (DPW) to negotiate and certify the compensation or land exchange for the taking of a private property adjacent to the Susupe social hall and basketball court area in Susupe, Saipan for public purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 and REP. MANNY G. T. CASTRO of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for themselves* Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R.S. Aldan, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcom J. Omar, Edwin K. Propst, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on February 3, 2023; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

[ADDED-2/3/2023] H. RES. NO. 23-3: To encourage the Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios and the Honorable Lieutenant Governor David M. Apatang to officially adopt a general policy to prevent the employment of people from being used as a personal political tool by freezing the hiring of nonessential employees with or without Number of Positions (NOP) provided in a budget enacted by the CNMI Legislature 180 days leading up to an election. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on February 3, 2023; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.