

CON 9 Calalenda
5/22/2024

TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH

LEGISLATURE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 22, 2024

Second Special SESSION, 2026

H. Res. 24-27

Hse Adopted - 5/22/2024

A HOUSE RESOLUTION

To honor and commend the employees and crews of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Guam Power Authority for their courage, technical expertise, and dedicated service in restoring power to the Commonwealth following Super Typhoon Sinlaku and other natural disasters.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has
2 endured the destructive force of numerous natural disasters, including typhoons,
3 super typhoons, tropical storms, flooding, damaging winds, and other emergencies
4 that have severely impacted homes, businesses, public facilities, critical
5 infrastructure, and the daily lives of our people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Super Typhoon Sinlaku once again reminded the people of
7 the Commonwealth how fragile island infrastructure can be, and how essential
8 reliable electricity is to public safety, healthcare, water production, wastewater
9 operations, communications, food preservation, fuel access, schools, businesses,
10 and the overall recovery of our community; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in the aftermath of such disasters, when families are securing
12 their homes, checking on loved ones, clearing debris, and facing uncertainty, the
13 employees and crews of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) answered

1 the call to restore essential utility services under difficult and hazardous conditions;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, these men and women worked in dangerous conditions,
4 including downed power lines, damaged poles, unstable terrain, flooded areas,
5 debris-filled roads, energized equipment, high-voltage systems, long work hours,
6 extreme heat, exhaustion, limited equipment, and the constant pressure of restoring
7 power to a community that depends on them; and

8 **WHEREAS**, with limited resources, aging infrastructure, difficult logistics,
9 and island-wide damage, CUC field crews, power plant personnel, dispatchers,
10 mechanics, engineers, supervisors, logistics personnel, and support staff worked
11 with determination, discipline, skill, and professionalism to restore the
12 Commonwealth electrical grid as safely and expeditiously as conditions allowed;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, the restoration of an electrical grid after a major typhoon is
15 not simply a matter of replacing poles and stringing lines, but requires highly
16 technical coordination across generation, transmission, distribution, substations,
17 protective relays, switching systems, load management, fault isolation, system
18 protection, and safe re-energization of damaged circuits; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives gives special recognition to the
20 Relay Technicians and Substation Technicians of CUC and the Guam Power
21 Authority (GPA), whose work represents one of the most technically demanding

1 and critical parts of power restoration, requiring extraordinary precision, discipline,
2 experience, technical judgment, and specialized expertise to safely diagnose faults,
3 test protective systems, verify equipment status, coordinate switching, restore
4 substations, and protect both the electrical grid and the lives of crews working in
5 the field; and

6 **WHEREAS**, Relay Technicians and Substation Technicians often work
7 behind the scenes, yet their decisions and technical judgment are critical to whether
8 power can be restored safely, whether circuits can be energized without further
9 damage, whether equipment can be protected from catastrophic failure, and
10 whether line crews can perform their work without unnecessary risk; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Power Authority provided critical mutual-aid
12 assistance to the Commonwealth, including skilled personnel, equipment,
13 operational experience, and technical support, demonstrating the importance of
14 regional cooperation among island utilities during disaster recovery; and

15 **WHEREAS**, GPA has repeatedly stood with the CNMI in times of disaster,
16 sending skilled personnel, equipment, experience, and assistance when our islands
17 needed help the most, demonstrating not only technical support but true island
18 solidarity, regional partnership, and the spirit of one Marianas in action; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the work of CUC and GPA is not merely technical labor, but
20 public service in its highest form, because every restored feeder, repaired line,
21 functioning relay, restored substation, replaced pole, cleared fault, energized

1 village, and reconnected household represents hope returning to families, elders,
2 children, businesses, first responders, and the entire Commonwealth; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the people of the Commonwealth recognize that power
4 restoration after a typhoon is accomplished by a coordinated team of line workers,
5 relay technicians, substation technicians, power plant operators, dispatchers,
6 mechanics, engineers, warehouse and logistics personnel, vegetation and clearing
7 crews, supervisors, administrative support staff, safety personnel, and mutual-aid
8 partners working together under extreme pressure; and

9 **WHEREAS**, despite resource shortages, long-standing infrastructure
10 challenges, difficult working conditions, and the heavy expectations placed upon
11 them, CUC crews and personnel continue to show up, climb poles, repair lines,
12 troubleshoot faults, operate generation systems, coordinate restoration, restore
13 substations, verify system protections, and serve the people of the Commonwealth
14 with quiet strength and extraordinary commitment; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the House also recognizes the families of these employees,
16 who endured their own uncertainty and hardship while their loved ones worked
17 long hours in hazardous conditions to restore essential services to the community;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, the courage, dedication, and technical excellence of these
20 field crews, relay technicians, substation technicians, and support personnel reflect

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1 the best values of the CNMI: resilience, sacrifice, service, humility, teamwork,
2 professionalism, and the willingness to help others when help is needed most; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives finds that it is proper, necessary,
4 and deeply deserved to publicly recognize the men and women of CUC and GPA
5 who stood on the front lines and behind the scenes of restoration, not under easy or
6 ideal conditions, but under hazardous, demanding, and resource-constrained
7 circumstances, with heart, skill, intelligence, and an unwavering commitment to the
8 people they serve.

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of
10 Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
11 Legislature that the House hereby honors, commends, and expresses the deepest
12 gratitude of the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to
13 the field crews, line workers, relay technicians, substation technicians, power plant
14 personnel, dispatchers, logistics personnel, mechanics, operators, engineers,
15 supervisors, and support staff of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the
16 Guam Power Authority for their courage, sacrifice, technical expertise,
17 professionalism, mutual-aid partnership, and tireless efforts to safely and
18 expeditiously restore the Commonwealth electrical grid following Super Typhoon
19 Sinlaku and other natural disasters that have tested the resilience of our islands.

20 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of
21 Representatives shall certify, and the House Clerk shall attest to the adoption of this

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1 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Kevin
2 O. Watson, Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; Allen
3 M. Perez, Chairman of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation; John M.
4 Benavente, P.E., General Manager of the Guam Power Authority; Francis E.
5 Santos, Chairman of the Consolidated Commission on Utilities of Guam; the
6 Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
7 Islands; the Honorable Lourdes Aflague "Lou" Leon Guerrero, Governor, Guam;
8 the Honorable Kimberlyn K. King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the U.S. House of
9 Representatives, 119th United States Congress; and the Honorable Karl R. King-
10 Nabors, Senate President, 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

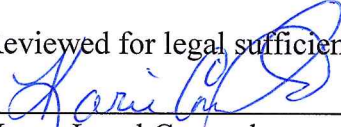
Prefiled: 5/19/2026

Date: _____

Introduced by: _____


Rep. Vincent R. Aldan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:


House Legal Counsel

Date: 5-19-26