



TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION, 2025

### LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

**1<sup>st</sup> Day, First Special Session**

**Thursday, April 24, 2025**

*The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, First Special Session on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 10:06 a.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.*

*The Honorable Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, Speaker of the House, presided.*

*A moment of silence was observed.*

### ROLL CALL

*The Clerk called the roll for attendance with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Present
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Present
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Present
Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao	Present
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Present
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Present
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Present
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Present
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Present
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Present
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Present
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Present
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Present
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Present
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 18 members are present and 2 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: With 18 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representative John Paul Sablan and Representative Thomas John Manglona are excused for today's session. And Representative Julie Ogo will be attending virtually from Rota. We will now proceed to Item No. 2, Public Comments. The podium is open to receive any comments. Please state your name and the entity you represent, you have five minutes. If you have prepared statements, please submit them to the Sergeant-at-Arms for forwarding to the Clerk's office.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Public Comments were presented by five individuals on the following items:*

**H. B. NO. 24-20:** To require conspicuous warning labels be placed on all betel nut products and containers that are imported or sold in the CNMI.

**H. B. NO. 24-24:** To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit.

**H. B. NO. 24-27:** To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/afok/or bweesch.

*There being no further public comments, the Chair moved down to Item 3, Adoption of Journals, and recognized the Clerk.*

## **ADOPTION OF JOURNALS**

*The Clerk announced the following House Journals:*

*Third Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 11, 2025*

*Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 21, 2025*

*Fifth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 25, 2025*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of Third Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 11, 2025, Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 21, 2025, and Fifth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 25, 2025; the motion was seconded. The floor was opened for discussion and there being none, the motion to adopt Third Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 11, 2025, Fourth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 21, 2025, and Fifth Day, First Regular Session Journal – March 25, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair proceeded to Item 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized the Floor Leader under House Bills.*

## INTRODUCTION OF BILL

### *House Bills:*

*Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committees on Education and, Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-19:** To rename the “CNMI Scholarship Office” to the “CNMI Scholarship and Financial Assistance Office”. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 and **REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for themselves*, Representative Ralph N. Yumul)

*Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested the Chair to place on Bill Calendar:*

**H. B. NO. 24-20:** To require conspicuous warning labels be placed on all betel nut products and containers that are imported or sold in the CNMI. **Prefiled by: REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 to place H. B. No. 24-20 on the Bill Calendar.*

*The motion was seconded and the floor was opened for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.*

*Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested the Chair to place on the Bill Calendar:*

**H. B. NO. 24-21:** To establish the Joint Oversight of Incoming Non-local Transfers Act to mandate Legislative and Executive Appropriation for all Non-Locally-Sourced Funds allocated for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **Prefiled by: REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*)

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 to place H. B. No. 24-21 on the Bill Calendar.*

*The motion was seconded and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*Representative Marissa Renee Flores formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on the Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-22:** *To repeal and reenact the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account. Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself)*

*Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-23:** *To amend 9 CMC § 2116 to update the definitions of “veteran” and “disabled veteran” and to allow a valid Veteran ID Card to be used as proof of veteran status when applying for a veteran’s license plate. Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself)*

*Representative Marissa Renee Flores was formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means:*

**H. B. NO. 24-24:** *To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1312 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit. Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representatives Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Diego V. F. Camacho, and Edmund S. Villagomez)*

*Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr. formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-25:** *To establish mandatory consecutive sentencing for repeat felony offenders on probation or parole, and to ensure consistent application of sentencing laws. Prefiled by: REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR. of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Marissa R. Flores)*

*Representative Malcolm Jason Omar formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:*

**H. B. NO. 24-26:** *To amend the crime of child abuse. Prefiled by: REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for himself)*

*Representative Malcolm Jason Omar formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committees on Ways and Means and, Health and Welfare:*

**H. B. NO. 24-27:** *To establish an excise tax for betelnut/areca nut and lime mix/afok/or bweesch. Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3, REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4, and REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for themselves)*

*The Chair moved down to House Local Bills and recognized Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.*

#### ***House Local Bills:***

*Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas officially introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-7:** *To appropriate Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000.00) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Prefiled by: REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (for himself)*

*Representative Joel Castro Camacho officially introduced the following bill:*

**H. L. B. NO. 24-8:** *To appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$85,500.00 under Saipan Local Law 23-04 for the repair, maintenance and improvements of recreational facilities in Precinct IV; and for other purposes. Prefiled by: REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO and REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for themselves)*

*There being no items introduced under House Legislative Initiatives, the Chair proceeded to Item 5, Introduction of Resolutions, and recognized Representative Elias J. M. Rangamar for the first item introduced under House Resolutions.*

#### ***House Legislative Initiatives:***

None

## INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

### *House Resolutions:*

*Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar formally introduced the following resolution:*

**H. RES. NO. 24-7:** To honor the 55 years of exemplary service rendered by Peace Corps Volunteers to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend a warm and respectful welcome to those returning to the islands that they once called home. **Prefiled by: REP. ELIAS J. M. RANGAMAR** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

*There being no objections on the floor, H. Res. No. 24-7 was introduced by the Committee of the Whole and subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.*

### *House Joint Resolutions:*

None

### *House Commemorative Resolutions:*

None

### *House Concurrent Resolutions:*

None

*There being no items for introductions under House Joint Resolutions, House Commemorative Resolutions, and House Concurrent Resolutions, the Chair proceeded to Item 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Clerk.*

## MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

*The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:*

GOV. COMM. 24-15: (3/31/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-2, D1, (To appropriate Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000.00) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes.). Became **Tinian Local Law 24-2** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-16: (4/1/2023 via Email) Submitting the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (\$147,516,288 available for appropriation). [For info] Note:

*Attachments for Gov. Comm. 24-16 comprising Volumes I through III, are voluminous. The files are fully searchable and readable. Members may access the complete file on the 24th House network file server. For assistance, please contact or visit the House Clerk's Office.*

GOV. COMM. 24-17: (4/7/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-6, *(To appropriate the remaining fund balance of \$50,411.00 under Saipan Local Law 21-10 (Project Code 7192H) for the maintenance, repairs and improvements of Commonwealth parks and recreational facilities in Precinct IV and for the purchase of base coarse to repair secondary roadways in Precinct IV; and for other purposes.)*. Became **Saipan Local Law 24-01** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-18: (4/9/2025) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Olga Kelley, Assistant Attorney General, at the Attorney General's Office to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-19: (4/11/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 24-4, D1, *(To appropriate \$40,000 for the Department of Finance Rota Division and the Mayor of Rota's operations; as well as \$731 for fuel and lubrication under the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources.)*. Became **Rota Local Law 24-01** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 24-20: (4/11/2025 received 4/14/2025) Informing the House that he vetoed, S. L. B. NO. 24-01, D1, *(To amend the Tinian Local Law 21-09 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; to authorize the establishment of the Tinian Stable Token; and for other purposes.)*. [**Deadline 6/13/2025**]

GOV. COMM. 24-21: (4/7/2025 received 4/16/2025) Informing the House that he signed into law and line item vetoed in parts, H. L. B. NO. 24-03, D2, *(To appropriate revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59.)*. Became **Saipan Local Law 24-02 item vetoed** [**Deadline 6/15/2025**]

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.*

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to thank the governor for signing into law House Local Bill 24-6, which is now Saipan Local Law 24-01. And to also thank him for signing into law House Local Bill 24-03, Draft 2, which is now Saipan Local Law 24-02. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas.*

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is to extend appreciation to Governor Palacios for signing House Local Bill No. 24-2, Draft 1: To appropriate Eighty Four Thousand Dollars (\$84,000) from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second



Senatorial District; and for other purposes. This bill became Tinian Local Law 24-2. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.*

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with our colleagues, I would like to thank the administration for signing the respective local legislation that appropriates funds to all the respective senatorial districts. But without any objections from the members, Mr. Speaker, may I ask that we keep Governor’s Communication 24-20 and 24-21 on the agenda for future sessions? As we know, we have a deadline of June 13, 2025, and June 15, 2025 to act on potential overrides on these two legislations. If there are no objections from the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Members of the House voiced “no objection.”*

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Attao. Clerk, please take note of that. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In line with my colleagues, I would also like to thank the administration for appropriating these funds needed by the movement. However, in the same breath, I would like to express my disappointment with such vetoes that were presented on Saipan Local Law 24-02. Programs that are aimed at protecting civil rights for individuals with disabilities, programs like the Saipan Humane Society, programs that aim to aid in the training and provide services for individuals diagnosed with special needs— mainly autism— and other nonprofit organizations aimed at building capacity training and ensuring that our community has some relief or at least some sense of success. So, I also support Representative Attao’s request to keep both communications on the calendar in the event this body decides to move forward with any action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Pursuant to the action taken on the floor, Governor’s Communication No. 24-16, referencing “Submitting the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 (\$147,516,288 available for appropriation)”, was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

## **SENATE COMMUNICATIONS**

None

*There being no under Senate Communications, the Chair moved down to Item 8, House Communications, and recognized the Clerk.*

## **HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

*The Clerk announced the following House Communications:*

HSE. COMM. 24-24: (3/21/2025) From Representative Angelo A. Camacho, Chair of the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources, regarding the appointment



of an additional member to the committee. In addition to the current members, Rep. Malcolm J. Omar is hereby appointed to serve on the House Standing Committee on Natural Resources. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-25: (3/21/2025) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning March 23, 2025—March 25, 2025 and request to be excused from any legislative sessions, committee meetings, or official functions during his absence. During his absence, he designates Vice Chair Celina R. Babauta, as Acting Chair for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD). [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-26: (4/2/2025) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning April 8, 2025—May 15, 2025 and request to be excused from any legislative sessions, committee meetings, or official functions during his absence. During his absence, he designates Vice Chair Celina R. Babauta, as Acting Chair for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD). [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-27: (4/16/2025) From Representative Thomas John DLC. Manglona informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal matters beginning April 17, 2025—April 21, 2025 and request to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and any official functions. [*For info*]

HSE. COMM. 24-28: (4/16/2025) From Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez to Governor Arnold I. Palacios *re: Request for Executive Action and Federal Engagement on CNMI-G ETA Processing Delays under EVS-TAP*. [*For info*]

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion and being no discussions, the Chair moved to the next Item 10 on the agenda.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH**

None

*There being no items to be read under Communications from the Judicial Branch, the Chair proceeded to Item 10, Communications from the Departments & Agencies, and recognized the Clerk.*

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES**

*The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Departments & Agencies:*

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-7: (3/14/2025) From the Department of Public Works (DPW) submitting *CNMI 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) for the period of FY 2024 to 2027*. [For info]

*The Chair opened the floor for discussion and being no discussions, the Chair moved to the next Item on the agenda, Item 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and recognized the Clerk.*

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

*The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:*

MISC. COMM. 24-21: (3/17/2025) From the Commonwealth Casino Commission re: *Submission of the Commonwealth Casino Commission budget request for FY 2026*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-22: (3/25/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of TALD Resolution No. 24-02, entitled, *“To commend and recognize Marvin Ngirarois Cruz Sr. for his unyielding contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-23: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 19-32, entitled, *“Congratulating 13 QuestBridge National College Match Recipients from Marianas High School and Recognizing their excellences for receiving full scholarships to top universities.”*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-24: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 19-33, entitled, *“To commend the POLKSAI Chamorro Club at Marianas High School for their outstanding achievements at the 4th Annual CNMI CCLHS State Level Language & Cultural Performing Arts Competition and for representing the CNMI at the upcoming Chamorro Competition in Guam.”*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-25: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 19-34, entitled, *“To commend the outstanding achievements of Hannah Lim, Henry Yeom, David Park, Alexis Salundaguit, Jim Sison, and Joan Song from Marianas High School who qualified to compete in the 2025 National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) Competition in West Des Moines, Iowa.”*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-26: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 19-35, entitled, *“Recognizing Grace Christian Ministries for 40 years of service, preaching, and evangelization to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-27: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 19-04, entitled, *“To repeal and re-enact the CNMI Youth*

*Congress Act; and for other purposes.”, which was passed by the 19th CNMI Youth Congress on August 17, 2024. [For info]*

MISC. COMM. 24-28: (3/27/2025) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 19-05, entitled, “*Requiring Background Checks for Youth Affiliated Sports Administration, Coaches, Trainers, and Instructors; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 19th CNMI Youth Congress on August 17, 2024. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-29: (received 3/28/2025) From the CEO, Commonwealth HealthCare Corporation (CHCC) re: *Submission of the Board-Approved Budget for the CHCC FY 2026.*  
[For info]

*Note: Attachments for Miscellaneous Communication 24-29 consist of a total of 337 pages. The files are fully searchable and readable. Members may access the complete file on the 24th House network file server. For assistance, please contact or visit the House Clerk’s Office.*

MISC. COMM. 24-30: (4/9/2025) From Karidat re: *Hold on FY24 VAWA/SASP Funds-Impact on Karidat’s Victim Services in the CNMI.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-31: (4/9/2025) Transmitting certified copies of the following: RLD Resolution No. 24-02; RLD Resolution No. 24-03; and RLD Resolution No. 24-04; and RLD Resolution No. 24-05, which was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on April 4, 2025. [For info]

*The floor was opened for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor and none under Reports of Standing Committees, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and Unfinished Business, the Chair moved down to Item 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Chair opened the floor; and there being none the Chair proceeded to the next item on the agenda.*

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

None

## **REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

*There being no items to be reported out under Item 12, Reports of Standing Committees, Item 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees; and there is no Unfinished Business, Item 14, the Chair proceeded to Item 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Floor Leader.*

### **RESOLUTION CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader moved for adoption of H. Res. No. 24-7:*

**H. RES. NO. 24-7:** To honor the 55 years of exemplary service rendered by Peace Corps Volunteers to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to extend a warm and respectful welcome to those returning to the islands that they once called home.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There was no discussion on the floor, before the votes were cast, and the Chair called for a recess.*

The House recessed at 10:45 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: We rise back to session. We needed clarification before we went on recess. We were about to vote on House Resolution No. 24-7. The motion was made for the adoption and has been seconded. There were no discussions, so we will move for the voice vote.

*The motion to adopt H. Res. No. 24-7 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the adoption of S. J. R. No. 24-02:*

**S. J. R. NO. 24-02:** A Senate Joint Resolution to call for a Joint Session of the Legislature to receive the Governor’s State of the Commonwealth Address.

*The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to offer a motion to amend Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-02 to read as follows. On page 3, line 26, after the word “called,” strike through “at a date and time specified” and add “convene on May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the CNMI Multipurpose Center for the purpose of receiving the annual State of the Commonwealth Address by the Governor pursuant to Article III, Section 9(b) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.” So moved.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Ralph N. Yumul was carried by voice vote, with no “nay” votes recorded. There being no further discussion on the motion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on motion to adopt S. J. R. No. 24-02, HD1 with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members voting in favor, Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-02, House Draft 1 is hereby adopted. Thank you. That clears out the resolution calendar, we now move down to the bill calendar, and I recognized the Floor Leader.

## **BILL CALENDAR**

*The Floor Leader moves for the suspension of Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.*

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-8:*

**H. B. NO. 24-8:** A Bill for an Act to amend 1 CMC § 2803 to ensure that public land revenues are managed and invested by the Marianas Public Land Trust in accordance with Article XI, Section 6 of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Mr. Speaker, may I request for recess?

*The Chair called for recess.*

The House recessed at 10:50 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you for that. Before we went on recess, we were under discussion under House Bill No. 24-8. So, the floor is open for discussion. I recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to my colleagues. I had read the motion on first and final reading, and I failed to mention that there was a floor amendment. Which you all have a copy of. I am sorry. Does everyone have a copy of the floor amendment? Please take a look at the floor amendment. The amendment I would like to make, colleagues and Mr. Speaker, is to amend Section 2803(c)(2) and 2803(g) of Section 2 of House Bill 24-8. Number one: pages 6 and 7, lines 17 through 20. 1 and 2, Section 2803(c)(2): At the end of each Fiscal Year, and no later than October 31, the funds within the MPLT Remittance Fund shall be remitted to the Marianas Public Land Trust in full, in accordance with Northern Marianas Constitution, Article 11, Section 6. Number 2, page 8, lines 13 and 14, Sections 2803(g): Within 30 calendar days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the DPL Secretary shall provide MPLT and the Legislature a detailed report of all revenues collected during that quarter. Those are my amendments, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the time. So, moved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The motion was duly seconded, and the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Marissa R. Flores was carried by voice vote, with no “nay” votes recorded. There being no further discussion on the motion, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll.*

*The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-8, HD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-8, House Draft 1, hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.*

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage one First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-20:*

**H. B. NO. 24-20:** To require conspicuous warning labels be placed on all betel nut products and containers that are imported or sold in the CNMI.

*The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.*



Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to extend our appreciation to the members of the community and the respective entities that came up to speak in support of House Bill 24-20. I understand that this has been an asked over the last 10 years by the Cancer Association. We finally are able to get a real draft, a working draft, that we can act on today. And to the members of the community out there that are looking at this legislation as something negative or against cultural trends over the years for the people of the CNMI, it is not. This is just a surgeon general’s warning for our local people in regard to the betel nut product. It is not saying that you cannot buy betel nut or anything like that. It is just an option that is given to our people whether to make that decision to purchase a product with the warning labels on it. That is all it is going to do. It is going to help promote, hopefully, good health care for our people, and we have members in here that chew betelnut and their signatures are on this legislation, and they support this legislation. And with that, I thank you, members, for the opportunity to have this bill placed on the calendar for action today. I ask for your support once again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll. The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-8, HD1, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 17 members present voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-20 hereby passes the House. I recognized the Floor Leader.

*The Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.*

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Section 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The Floor Leader moved for the passage on First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-21:*

**H. B. NO. 24-21:** To establish the Joint Oversight of Incoming Non-local Transfers Act to mandate Legislative and Executive Appropriation for all Non-Locally-Sourced Funds allocated for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

*The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the author or to the Counsel. Does that include, for example, loans or requests to other agencies, like MPLT or any other agencies? Does that cover that?

*The Chair called of recess.*

The House recessed at 11:04 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were under discussion for House Bill No. 24-21, and Representative Ralph Yumul asked a question to the legal counsel. I would like to recognize the legal counsel for that clarification.

Legal Counsel Joseph Hallahan: Hi, Representative Yumul. You are basically asking what constitutes a locally sourced fund or a non-locally sourced fund. If you turn to page 3 of the bill on lines 3 to 11, it describes what a non-locally sourced fund and it is essentially all funds that directly or indirectly benefit the CNMI and originate from outside the Commonwealth, including from the US Federal Government or any of its agencies, and are subject to expenditure by the governor or the Office of the Governor.

*The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.*

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Counsel. I just want to clarify. I know during the pandemic the CNMI government originally received a loan from FEMA for 88 billion dollars at the time, and then obviously during the pandemic it was forgiven. So, I just want to ensure that all funds, whether they are given to us or borrowed by us via the US government, that the legislature is included in deciding how the funds are going to be expended. As you know, in the last pandemic,

one person was in charge, and that is where we are at today. I just want to make sure that it includes loan as well. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. Representative Yangetmai for introducing this bill. I know, just for historical purposes, this bill was introduced in the 23rd Legislature and failed to pass in the Senate, for whatever reason. But the urgency, and I am hoping that our colleagues up at the Senate will work with the committee—I am sorry, with us at the lower house—in the event that this turns into a conferee process. But we must be mindful that with this economic climate that is really happening as we speak, all of these non-locally sourced funds are expected to be reimbursed at some point before the end of this fiscal year. And moving this bill in First and Final Reading in hopes that the Senate will support it gives us at least enough to say that this body, the legislative body, is the power of the purse at the end of the day. And any money should be appropriated from this body. Right now is the time more than ever. We have said it many times before, we need to be prudent. We can no longer just be throwing it away with no return or investment. There are a lot of needs over wants right now, and this legislative body is committed to addressing the needs as opposed to the wants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*There being no further discussions on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk for the roll. The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-21, on First and Final Reading, with the following results:*

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Yes
Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan	Yes
Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino Jr.	Yes
Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao	Yes
Representative Roman Cepeda Benavente	Yes
Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho	Yes
Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho	Yes
Representative Joel Castro Camacho	Yes
Representative Joseph Arriola Flores	Yes
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Yes
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (During Voting)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Yes
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Yes
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Yes
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Absent (Excused)
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Yes
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Yes
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Yes
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	yes

Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 17 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 17 members present voting “yes,” House Bill 24-21 hereby passes the House. Thank you, Colleagues. With nothing further under Bill Calendar, we move down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business. The floor is open. I recognize Representative Malcolm Omar.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Malcolm Omar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, members. I just want to thank everyone for their support in House Bill No. 24-20 and House Bill No. 24-27, which have been referred to committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for that. It has been referred to the committee on Health and Welfare, and we will be calling a meeting to address the concerns of this bill so we can try to move it out as soon as we can. For the record, I want to submit written statements of support for House Bills No. 24-20 and 24-27. One from the University of Guam, University of Hawaii Cancer Center, and Pacific Island Partnerships for Cancer Health Equity—dated April 23rd; a letter of support from Dr. Peter Brett, CNMI Medical Oncologist—dated April 24th; a letter of support from CEO Esther Muna—dated April 21st; a letter of support from Dr. Angelica Sabino, Chief Dentist, CHCC Oral Health Clinic—dated April 22nd; a letter of support from Eleanor Cabrera—dated April 24th; another one from Dr. Esther Muna—dated April 21st; and one from Dr. Felix Cabrera—dated April 24th. Mr. Speaker, this is just for the record, going over some of the data that was provided to support these bills, especially the recent tobacco-free recovery leadership academy. If you want copies, you can request them through my office. Projections for betel nut excise tax collections and projected revenues that could be collected from these things. The main purpose again is not to stigmatize or to punish anybody for the substance use. But during the last leadership academy, the data showed alarming rates of oral cancer patients, especially among most of these locals, including some non-indigenous to the Marianas. But those who call our Marianas home, who have adapted to our culture and traditions, are all being affected by the harmful effects of betel nut and tobacco use. The average life expectancy is alarming because they are not reaching the peak of it. So, again, we welcome, I welcome any comments or support. Once we set the dates for the hearing, we will send it out. But everyone has to do their preventative parts in healthcare and for the treatment process. It is an overwhelming burden for the CNMI taxpayers, especially just to keep funding treatments that eventually do not really pan out for the long run. Again, thank you. For the members of the public in the gallery and those viewing online, thank you for your support. We look forward to working with you more to see these things through. *Si yu’us ma’asi*, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.*

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you. I know my colleagues are looking at me like, “Oh great! There she is again on miscellaneous.” But it is a common practice for me to speak under miscellaneous business. I learned the hard way, and I was told that if I had anything to say, this would be the right time. As we were going through today's calendar and we were listening intently to the public comments in support of bills on today's calendar, there were some other departments that did not make it today. And in light of Representative Omar, I received a communication from the Department of Public Safety, who I strongly advocate for since the 23rd Legislature because they have been underfunded due to some, maybe, technical errors or some needs. I am sorry to clarify that some are wants as opposed to needs. And the justice fund, the reenactment repeal and

reenactment of the justice fund, is aimed at bringing back the money back to DPS since the loan has been completed and paid off in that law that gave that money to the judicial branch to build their building. So, now that is paid, I just want to make it very clear to this public that DPS has lost 20 more staff. I do not want to say where because I do not want to raise any kind of civil outrage and increase crime within our community. But that is a very disturbing number because public safety is not a want, it is a need. And I cannot stress enough the importance of being prudent when we are talking about money, because while one may be important, another may suffer. But when you are talking about public safety, education, health, and welfare, that is our God-given right. We must have those protections, period, at the end of the day. So, my heart to DPS, and we are going to fight the good fight, and we are going to work together as collaborative partners so that you can get the funding that you deserve to boost morale, but most importantly, to protect our community. You have one mission, and that is to protect the Commonwealth in times of public safety if it arises. As we take a moment to reflect, let us acknowledge the diverse community that surrounds us. Each person in here is contributing uniquely to the vibrant tapestry of our shared home. Today I wish to address the essential role of collective responsibility in fostering a community united by common interest and invigorated by renewed hope. Picture, if you will, a canoe journeying across the vast ocean, and each paddler plays a crucial role in propelling the vessel forward. When we encounter individuals who hesitate or falter in their efforts, the journey becomes more challenging and our destination further away. Likewise, our community operates in a similar manner. Our progress, resilience in the face of challenges, and visions for the future depend on the united efforts and shared responsibility of every individual among us. Shared responsibility transcends individual contributions. It highlights the understanding that our actions reverberate throughout our community. When we take care of our environment, we enhance the well-being of all. Supporting local businesses fortifies our economy, benefiting everyone involved. By extending a helping hand to a neighbor in need, we fortify our social fabric. Every act of kindness and contribution, no matter how incremental it may appear, enhances the strength and vibrancy of our community as a whole. From this foundation of shared responsibility arises a community of mutual interest. As we engage with one another, actively participate, and heed each other's concerns, we begin to forge connections that bind us. We uncover common aspirations for our families, our environment, and the future of our Commonwealth. These shared interests serve as the anchor that unites us, fostering a sense of belonging and purpose. From this sense of belonging and our collaborative pursuit of common goals emerges a renewed sense of hope. Witnessing our neighbor's engagement and recognizing the positive outcomes of our collective efforts cultivates optimism within us. Challenges that may have once appeared insurmountable transform into opportunities for collaboration. What was once felt uncertain about the future begins to shimmer with promise. This renewed hope is not a passive longing, it is a dynamic force that propels us toward overcoming obstacles, fostering innovation, and building a brighter tomorrow. It inspires each of us to embody the change we wish to see within our community. Therefore, I invite us all, all of us in here, to embrace this shared responsibility not as a burden but as a significant opportunity. Let us actively nurture our common interest and recognize the strength found in our unity. Together let us unite, ignite a renewed hope, and cultivate a vibrant vision for the future of our beloved Commonwealth. Let this spirit of collaboration guide our actions, and let the bonds of community reinforce our dedication, and may the light of renewed hope illuminate the path ahead. Together we can create a community where every voice is valued. Every voice. And every contribution is acknowledged, and each member of this community has the opportunity to thrive. Now more than ever, we need to figure out, together, how to move forward. There is no



time. Urgency is time. When we sit and do not do anything, that is a waste of time. I am not here to waste anybody's time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield.

*The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.*

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank Joseph Hallahan for assisting me with fine-tuning my bill, the Legislative Bureau staff who helped shape the introduction, and the House Clerk for getting them to allow them to sign. I am encouraging my colleagues in the majority to please also sponsor this bill or to co-sponsor it. This bill, I know they always talk about rehabilitation for criminals. But that opportunity is afforded to them inside the Department of Corrections. When we look at our economy, we wonder what the biggest problem is. Crimes against tourists, crimes against our citizens, and, more particularly, Precinct 2 have been at the forefront of these media. Announcements like drugs, burglary, and others. The question is, this thing has been ongoing—crime—and it is on the rise, especially with drugs. Let us not kid ourselves, we all have some sort of compassion for people to rehabilitate themselves. But at what point, when you become a victim, will you change the way your thought process is? Who speaks out for the victims of crime? No one. Sometimes the people who were inflicted with crime end up feeling disgusted with the fact that the person that committed the crime was released on probation, or they were out early on parole. So, this thing is not for me, a way to rehabilitate, but a way to remove people that are a nuisance to society, and they can get help from within. So, I am asking everyone to please Chairman Joel, if this gets referred to the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee, let us please move this thing forward and start addressing some of the real root problems. Because they are using minors now to commit crimes to distribute drugs, and we need to protect our youth. If we are going to keep ignoring what exists today, like what the Floor Leader said, we have to act now. This is a common sense bill, and I am asking for everyone's support. This is what the people of my district, my precinct, wanted. Tough on crime. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.*

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, all, colleagues, for your overwhelming support of House Bill 24-21. The one for the non-local funding. Yes, we really need to step up. I do not want to say a lot because Representative Marissa, the Floor Leader, already mentioned all these things. But I just want to repeat that we need to show everyone that we have the power of the purse. We need to meet with the executive branch in the middle to discuss how the money should be appropriated from the non-local funding sources. And also for us to secretly call our Senate friends and ask them to also pass it. Thank you.

*There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item 18, Announcements, and recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to announce that if anybody is interested in figuring out what is going on with their utility bill, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission hereby gives notice that a business meeting will be held on Friday, April 25th, 2025, at 09:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Commonwealth Economic

Development Authority located in the CEDA Building on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. So, if you want to participate, make a comment, inform certain things that are going on with your utilities, and I am pretty sure that the commissioners will be more than willing to hear you out. Also, understand that they are the ones that regulate the rates. CUC might want to raise the rates, but not without the permission of the commissioners. So, please get involved and support your public utility commissioners. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada.*

Representative Roy Christopher Aldan Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just like to make an announcement that the fiesta for San Vicente is this Sunday. If anybody is willing to donate, you can go ahead and donate directly to the church or to my office. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.*

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to inform the members of the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee that I have a scheduled meeting for next week on Tuesday. Since these bills were just recently referred, I will try to amend our agenda so that we can include all the bills that have been referred to the committee for that meeting next week. So, tentatively scheduled for next week Tuesday at 10:00 a.m., here in the House Chamber. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.*

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to inform the public that Chairman John Paul and I are working hard in our precinct. And for those thinking about relocating, Precinct 2 is turning out to be really clean and nice. We got cheap rentals, and it is centrally located to major shopping stores. I hope to see increased numbers in Precinct 2. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.*

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Thank you, Speaker. Just a reminder, the Senate Committee on Resources and the joint committees of the Senate and House are having a public hearing or community meeting tonight at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School at San Roque for the proposed land lease of Marianas Resort. So, we had one on Tuesday at the Tanapag Youth Center, and we are encouraging more members of the community, not only from the precinct. The land lease deals are public. The public lands are for the whole CNMI. So, in order to, and I stressed this at the last hearing, so that the members of the committees can make an informed decision and a collective decision for the best interest of our people, I invite everybody to the public hearing. The community meeting, or if such, you can submit written comments or submit comments to your respective representatives or senators. Again, this is for the entire CNMI. All public land leases benefit the entire CNMI and not just the respective location of the proposed investment. So, again, everyone's participation is welcomed. Thank you, Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" Tenorio Attao.*



Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is just to inform the general public that we will have a Federal and Foreign Affairs committee meeting on Tuesday at 09:00 a.m. to address the Senate Joint Resolution that has been sent to our respective committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*The Chair recognized Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar.*

Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With so many activities happening this weekend, I am going to throw this in. Hopefully you guys have the time. We have a voyaging canoe guest coming in from Guam. I think they arrived this morning. They are here for the Arts Festival, and as is customary with our navigation and canoe voyaging family, we help them provide water. So, again, for the general public and the members, if we can, I think they are down at the Canoe House in Susupe. Canned food or even a dish for lunch, whatever you can bring. It is customary, and it is great to sit down and talk about their trip coming over from Guam. I know there are some Guamanians. There is also some from the outer islands. They will be here all week. Not that they are broke, but they cannot bring their wallet on the canoe or card. So, thank you all.

*The Chair recognized Representative Malcolm Jason Omar.*

Representative Malcolm Jason Omar: Sorry. I forgot to mention that the meeting tonight will be at Gregory T. Camacho Elementary School at 05:30 p.m. Thank you.

*The Chair recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.*

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Speaker. I think May 10th will be the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new playground equipment at Laly 4, Chalan Kanoa. I will be letting you all know. I want to thank the Rotary Club of Saipan for their donation of that large playground equipment. Thank you.

*There being no further discussions on the floor, the Chair moved down to Adjournment, and recognized the Floor Leader.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Floor Leader Marissa Renee Flores: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hereby move to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair. So move.

*The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussions on the floor, the motion for adjournment was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.*

*The House adjourned at 11:40 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Benalyn T. Santos  
House Journal Clerk

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### **APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS**

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

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

**THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:**

H. L. B. NO. 24-5: To amend the Saipan Zoning Law to define "Automobile Sales & Service" and to establish a screening requirement for "Automobile Sales & Service" businesses that are adjacent to certain zoning districts. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on March 21, 2025

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### ***Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on March 25, 2025:***

C. RES. NO. 24-2: To honor the life and legacy of the late Honorable Miguel Mendiola Sablan for his meaningful contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to his family. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai*) on March 25, 2025; subsequently moved and placed on the Resolution Calendar.