



HOUSE JOURNAL

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2025

2nd Day, Second Regular Session

Friday, August 29, 2025

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Second Regular Session on Friday, August 29, 2025, at 10:17 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	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Present
Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas	Present (via Microsoft Teams)
Representative Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez	Present
Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai	Present
Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul	Present

Clerk Linda B. Muna: Mr. Speaker, 12 members are present and 8 members are absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 12 members present, a quorum is duly established. Let the record reflect that Representatives Julie Ogo, Roy Ada, Marissa Flores, Thomas John Manglona, Malcolm Omar, Joseph Flores, Elias Rangamar, and Raymond

Palacios are excused for today's session. Before we go down to Item No. 2, Public Comments, I recognize the Floor Leader for the suspension of rules to amend today's agenda.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the suspension of Rule III, Section 6.

RULE III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 6. Notice of Sessions.

Not less than 72 hours prior to convening a Regular or Special Session, the Speaker or a majority of the members of the House, shall file a written public notice of the date, time, and place of a session with the Clerk and post the same at the executive branch administration building and the Legislature's website. When possible, notices under this section shall be given to at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notices shall contain an agenda of items to be considered at the session. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such session. Once filed as part of this notice, the agenda may only be changed by adding items thereto by the recorded vote of the majority of the members of the House.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you. I apologize, a little slip up. But I have asked Representative Ralph Yumul to be the acting floor leader for this morning. So, thank you for that.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll of attendance.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members present voting “yes,” the motion carries. 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 one individual on the following items:

H. B. NO. 24-53: To amend 1 CMC § 7831 to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from the mandatory one percent (1%) Public Auditor Fee, forgive all arrears related to such fee, and establish a cost-based audit recovery system with mandatory reporting and penalties for noncompliance; and for other purposes.

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following House Journal:

First Day, Fifth Special Session Journal – July 31, 2025

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of First Day, Fifth Special Session Journal – July 31, 2025. The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt First Day, Fifth Special Session Journal – July 31, 2025 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair moved down to Item No. 4, Introduction of Bills, and recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan under House Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

H. B. NO. 24-53: To amend 1 CMC § 7831 to exempt the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from the mandatory one percent (1%) Public Auditor Fee, forgive all arrears related to such fee, and establish a cost-based audit recovery system with mandatory reporting and penalties for noncompliance; and for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself)

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr. formally introduced the following bill; subsequently requested the Chair to place on the Bill Calendar:

H. B. NO. 24-54: To increase the number of military leave hours available to CNMI government employees and to broaden eligibility for its use. **Prefiled by: REP. DANIEL I. AQUINO JR.** of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Diego V. F. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DiC. Manglona, Malcolm J. Omar, John Paul P. Sablan, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:27 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:31 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, Representative Daniel Aquino introduced House Bill 24-54 and kindly requested for a motion to place it on today's calendar action. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Action Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule IX, Section 8.

The motion was seconded; 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 Vice Speaker.

Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho formally introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Marissa Renee Flores, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations:

H. B. NO. 24-55: To amend the penalties for illegally parking in spaces designated for persons with disabilities by strengthening and enforcing clear penalties for violation and repeat offenses and by ensuring accessible parking for persons with disabilities; and for other such purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. MARISSA R. FLORES** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself)

Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

H. B. NO. 24-56: To establish the CNMI Air Service Development Matching Fund to support federal air service development grants, such as the Small Community Air Service Development Program, and to provide procedures and responsibilities related to the use of the Fund. **Prefiled by: REP. ANGELO A. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Roman C. Benavente, Marissa R. Flores, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

During this time, the Chair opened the floor for introductions of unnumbered bills and recognized himself.

Representative Edward Joseph Sablan Villagomez formally introduced the following bill, which was then referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations:

[ADDED-8/29/2025] H. B. NO. 24-57: To re-establish a Government Liberty Cap. **Introduced by” REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, Marissa R. Flores, and Ralph N. Yumul) on August 29, 2025.

Representative Angelo Atalig Camacho formally introduced the following bill:

[ADDED-8/29/2025] H. B. NO. 24-58: To amend 4 CMC § 1305 to exempt services and the sale or exchange of securities and other similar assets from gross revenue tax; to amend 4 CMC § 1708 to allow rebates for exempted activities; to repeal 4 CMC § 1712; and for other purposes. **Introduced by: REP. ANGELO A. CAMACHO** of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Vincent R. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita K. Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on August 29, 2025.

There being no further introductions under House Bills, the Chair moved down to House Local Bills.

House Local Bills:

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan formally introduced the following bill:

H. L. B. NO. 24-22: To rename a portion of Lana Drive in the village of As Lito, Precinct I, to “Diego T. Benavente Drive” in honor of the Honorable Diego Tenorio Benavente, former Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and long-serving public servant of the Commonwealth. **Prefiled by: REP(S). VINCENT R. ALDAN, ROMAN C. BENAVENTE, DIEGO V. F. CAMACHO, JOSEPH A. FLORES, RAYMOND U. PALACIOS** of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for themselves, Representative Edmund S. Villagomez)

Representative Joel Castro Camacho formally introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo:

H. L. B. NO. 24-23: To establish the Rota Cultural Heritage and Education Tour Act, for other purposes. **Prefiled by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself)

During this time, the Chair opened the floor for introductions of unnumbered bills and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho on behalf of Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho formally introduced the following bill on behalf of Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo:

[ADDED-8/29/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-24: To establish the Rota Department of Public Works equipment rental fee, and for other purposes. **Introduced by: REP. JULIE M. A. OGO** of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*) on August 29, 2025.

Representative Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas formally introduced the following bill:

[ADDED-8/29/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-25: To appropriate Forty Two Thousand Dollars (\$42,000.00) 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 August 29, 2025.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul formally introduced the following bill:

[ADDED-8/29/2025] H. L. B. NO. 24-26: To appropriate \$380,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes. **Introduced by: REP. RALPH N. YUMUL** of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Marissa R. Flores, and John Paul P. Sablan) on August 29, 2025.

There being no further introductions on unnumbered bills and no items under House Legislative, the Chair moved down to Item No. 5, Introduction of Resolutions.

House Legislative Initiatives:

None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

None

House Joint Resolutions:

None

House Commemorative Resolutions:

None

House Concurrent Resolutions:

None

The Chair opened the floor for introductions of unnumbered resolutions, and there was none.

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 6, Messages from the Governor, and recognized the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 24-53: Executive Order 2025-003 – Clarifying Roles and Responsibilities within the Single Audit Committee. [Submitted 8/15/2025]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion, and there was none.

There being no items under Item No. 7, Senate Communications, the Chair moved down to Item No. 8, House Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

None

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

Hse. Comm. 24-50: (8/11/2025) From Representative Vincent R. Aldan, Chair of the House Standing Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I), informing the Speaker of the appointment of Representative Ralph N. Yumul as Vice Chair of the T&I Committee. [For info]

Hse. Comm. 24-51: (8/15/2025) From Representative Elias M. Rangamar, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave from August 18, 2025, through September 8, 2025, and requesting to be excused from all legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, and committee meetings during this period. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-52: (8/18/2025) From Representative Julie M. A. Ogo, informing the Speaker that she will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning August 26, 2025, with her return date to be determined, and requesting to be excused from all official functions during this period. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-53: (8/19/2025) From Representative Raymond U. Palacios, informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on personal leave from August 26, 2025, through September 6, 2025, and requesting to be excused from any official meetings or sessions, during this period. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-54: (8/19/2025) From Representative Roman C. Benavente, Chair of the Education Committee, informing the House of the appointment of Representative Daniel I. Aquino, Jr. as a member of the Education Committee. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-55: (8/21/2025) From Representative Joseph A. Flores informing the Speaker of his absence from the Commonwealth on personal leave from August 22, 2025 to September 15, 2025, and requesting to be excused from scheduled meetings or sessions during this period. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-56: (8/22/2025) From Representative Ralph N. Yumul, Chairman, House Standing Committee on Gaming, submitting notice of rescission of House Communication No. 24-44. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 24-57: (8/22/2025) Representative Malcolm J. Omar informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business from August 25, 2025—August 29, 2025, and requests to be excused from any legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and official functions, during this period. [For info]

[ADDED – 8/29/2025] HSE. COMM. 24-58: (8/27/2025) Representative Roy A. Ada informing the Speaker that he will be out on personal leave from August 28,

2025 – September 4, 2025, and requests to be excused from any legislative sessions or meetings during this period. [For info]

[ADDED – 8/29/2025] HSE. COMM. 24-59: (8/28, 2025) Representative Malcolm J. Omar informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth for personal matters from August 30, 2025 – September 12, 2025, and requests to be excused from any legislative sessions, SNILD sessions, committee meetings, and official functions, during this period. [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 9, Communications from the Judicial Branch, and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Clerk announced the following Communications from the Judicial Branch:

JUD. BR. COMM. 24-5: (8/13/2025) Judiciary comments on H. B. No. 24-46, entitled, *(To Define and Identify General Revenues and approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9 (a) of the CNMI Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes.)* and H. B. No. 24-22, entitled, *(To repeal and reenact the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account.)* [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 10, Communications from Departments & Agencies, and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Departments & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-16: (8/20/2025) From Sixto K. Igisomar, Secretary of the Department Public Lands, submitting a supplemental notice of additional land compensation claims for payment totaling \$252,000.08. Requests the additional judgement be included in the pending appropriation request for judgements against the Commonwealth. [For info]

[ADDED – 8/25/2025] DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 24-17: 98/26/2025) From Leila F. Staffler, Secretary of Department of Labor, submitting recommendations on HB 24-42 (Financial Literacy Education). [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 11, Miscellaneous Communications, and recognized the Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 24-49: (8/19/2025) From the Commonwealth Zoning Board, Saipan Zoning Office re: Notice of Rezone/Change in Zoning District Boundaries on the Official Zoning Map From Village Commercial (VC) and Village Residential (VR) to Mixed Commercial (MC) zoning district. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 24-50: (8/21/2025) Correspondence from Mr. Ambrose M. Bennet, MA, re: Complaint & Request for Oversight Hearing on Cannabis & Casino Commission. [For info]

[ADDED - 08/29/2025] MISC. COMM. 24-51: (8/26/2025) From Robert T. Torres, CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Office, submitting recommendations on BEAD Program Protest Response. [For info]

[ADDED - 08/29/2025] MISC. COMM. 24-52: 98/28/2025) Rita A. Sablan, Acting Chairperson of Marianas Pacific Land Trust, submitting comments and recommendations on HB 24-50 (\$29M Loan Authorization). [For info]

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 12, Reports of Standing Committees, and recognized the Clerk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced the following Reports of Standing Committees:

S. C. R. NO. 24-19: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-16, entitled: “To prioritize kinship placement for children in protective custody by requiring the Division of Youth Services identify and assess suitable kinship caregivers within 24 hours of removing a child from their home, mandating expedited judicial review of kinship placement recommendations, and prohibiting the placement of such children in confinement facilities.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-16** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-20: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-35, entitled: “To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-35** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-21: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-39, entitled: “To establish Treatment Program Enforcement Officers within the Judiciary to carry out enforcement, supervision, and monitoring functions essential to the success of court-supervised treatment programs, and to ensure that these officers are fully recognized as law enforcement personnel under Commonwealth law.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-39** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-22: Reporting on JUD. BR. COMM. 24-3: Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct. Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House disapprove the “Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct.”

S. C. R. NO. 24-23: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-5, entitled: “To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-5, HD1**.

S. C. R. NO. 24-24: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-10, entitled: “To establish a change of name legal procedure in the CNMI.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-10** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-25: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-26, entitled: “To amend the crime of child abuse.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-26** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-26: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-45, entitled: “To re-appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.” Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-45** in its current form.

S. C. R. NO. 24-27: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-50, entitled: “To authorize a loan between the Commonwealth Government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of \$29,000,000 and authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and retain net annual distributable income starting Fiscal Year 2026 for repayment and security of the loan.” Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-50** in its current form.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-19: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-16, entitled: “To prioritize kinship placement for children in protective custody by requiring the Division of Youth Services identify and assess suitable kinship caregivers within 24 hours of removing a child from their home, mandating expedited judicial review of kinship placement recommendations, and prohibiting the placement of such children in confinement facilities.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-16** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-19 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-20: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-35, entitled: “To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-35** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion.

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:41 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:43 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you. We apologize about that, everyone. Before we went on recess, we were on the motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-20. We were under discussion. Are there any discussions?

There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-20 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-21: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-39, entitled: “To establish Treatment Program Enforcement Officers within the Judiciary to carry out enforcement, supervision, and monitoring functions essential to the success of court-supervised treatment programs, and to ensure that these officers are fully recognized as law enforcement personnel under Commonwealth law.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-39** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-21 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved to refer the following back to committee:

S. C. R. NO. 24-22: Reporting on JUD. BR. COMM. 24-3: Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct. Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House disapprove the “Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct.”

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:45 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, everyone. Before we went on recess, the Floor Leader had the floor discussing Standing Committee Report No. 24-22. And I now recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved to refer the following back to committee:

S. C. R. NO. 24-22: Reporting on JUD. BR. COMM. 24-3: Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct. Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House disapprove the “Proposed NMI Code of Judicial Conduct.”

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to refer S. C. R. No. 24-22 back to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-23: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-5, entitled: “To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. NO. 24-5, HD1.**

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-23 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-24: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-10, entitled: “To establish a change of name legal procedure in the CNMI.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-10** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-24 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-25: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-26, entitled: “To amend the crime of child abuse.” Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-26** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-25 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-26: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-45, entitled: “To re-appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.” Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-45** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, and the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-26 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of the following:

S. C. R. NO. 24-27: Reporting on H. B. No. 24-50, entitled: “To authorize a loan between the Commonwealth Government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of \$29,000,000 and authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and retain net annual distributable income starting Fiscal Year 2026 for repayment and security of the loan.” Your House Committee on Ways and Means recommends that the House pass **H. B. No. 24-50** in its current form.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, and the motion to adopt S. C. R. No. 24-27 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

There being no items under Item No. 13, Reports of Special and Conference Committees, and Item No. 14, Unfinished Business, the Chair moved down to Item No. 15, Resolution Calendar, and recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. J. R. No. 24-7:

H. J. R. NO. 24-7: To encourage the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to declare a Proactive Resilience Emergency Declaration to protect the Commonwealth’s renewable energy future in light of the approaching federal deadline under the 2025 “Big Beautiful Budget” Act (BBB); and urging all agencies to fast-track renewable energy projects before the opportunity expires.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt H. J. R. No. 24-7, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members present voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution No. 24-7 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the adoption of H. C. R. No. 24-2, SS1:

H. C. R. NO. 24-2, SS1: To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified under Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and Title 1, Division 7, of the Commonwealth Code, for Fiscal Year 2026, beginning October 1, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2026.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to adopt H. C. R. No. 24-2, SS1, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members present voting “yes,” House Concurrent Resolution No. 24-2, SS1 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader. With nothing further, we now move down to Item No. 16, Bill Calendar.

BILL CALENDAR

The Chair called for recess.

The House recessed at 10:54 a.m.

Recess

The House reconvened at 10:55 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we had just entered the bill calendar, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Section 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, Sections 9, and Rule IX, Section 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-54:

H. B. NO. 24-54: To increase the number of military leave hours available to CNMI government employees and to broaden eligibility for its use.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-54, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-54 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting 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 and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hereby propose some floor amendments.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: To the House Rules?

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I thought we were under discussion for the bill.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: This is under the motion to suspend rules.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule VII, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-9:

H. B. NO. 24-9: To amend 4 CMC § 1803 by reallocating a portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax received by the Marianas Visitors Authority to the Division of Parks and Recreation to support beautification efforts.

The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for earlier. I would like to hereby propose a floor amendment under Section 2 4 CMC § 1803 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to read as follows. On page 4, line 15, the only amendment we are making is to be striking out the amount of \$70,000 to \$40,000. Consistent with the intent of the foreign amendments, I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the motion to adopt the floor amendment was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The Chair proceeded to the motion on the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-9, HD1.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-9, HD1, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-9, House Draft 1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved to refer H. B. No. 24-22 back to committee:

H. B. NO. 24-22: Act to repeal and reenact the Justice Center Fund Revolving Account.

The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Joel Castro Camacho.

Representative Joel Castro Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, we have Mr. Matthew Brown here and Ms. Hyun Jae from the judiciary. And we will be scheduling a meeting to discuss House Bill No. 24-22. So, thank you for referring it back to the committee.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the motion to refer H. B. No. 24-22 back to the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved to suspend Rule VII, Section 9, and Rule IX, Section 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, Sections 9, and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-38:

H. B. No. 24-38: Act To establish a dedicated CNMI Emergency Reserve Fund (“Rainy Day Fund”) with annual mandatory deposits and procedures for fund disbursement in times of declared emergency, while ensuring fiscal accountability.

The motion was seconded. The Chair opened the floor for discussion and recognized Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho.

Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to offer an amendment in the form of House Bill No. 24-38, House Draft 1. I believe the members have a copy of that.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Proceed, Vice Speaker Camacho.

Representative Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you. Draft 1 really clarifies the reporting days from 180 to 60 days before the end of each fiscal year. And it also reflects the definition and the enactment for Fiscal Year 27 not 26. So moved.

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

The Chair proceeded to the motion on the passage of First and Final Reading of H. B. No. 24-38, HD1.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-38, HD1, First and Final Reading, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)

Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-38, House Draft 1 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-16:

H. B. NO. 24-16: To prioritize kinship placement for children in protective custody by requiring the Division of Youth Services identify and assess suitable kinship caregivers within 24 hours of removing a child from their home, mandating expedited judicial review of kinship placement recommendations, and prohibiting the placement of such children in confinement facilities.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-16, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-16 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for the passage of H. B. No. 24-35:

H. B. No. 24-35: To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Good Samaritan Act [7 CMC § 2801 et seq.]; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-35, with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-35 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for passage of H. B. No. 24-39:

H. B. No. 24-39: To establish Treatment Program Enforcement Officers within the Judiciary to carry out enforcement, supervision, and monitoring functions essential to the success of court-supervised treatment programs, and to ensure that these officers are fully recognized as law enforcement personnel under Commonwealth law.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-39 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-39 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for passage of H. B. No. 24-5, HD1:

H. B. No. 24-5: To establish provisions for jaywalking; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-5 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for passage of H. B. No. 24-10:

H. B. No. 24-10: To establish a change of name legal procedure in the CNMI.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-10 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-10 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for passage of H. B. No. 24-26:

H. B. No. 24-26: To amend the crime of child abuse.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-26 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-26 hereby passes the House. I recognize the Floor Leader. And I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Acting Floor Leader moved for passage of H. B. No. 24-45:

H. B. No. 24-45: To re-appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota.

The motion was seconded; the Chair opened the floor for discussion. There being no discussion on the floor, the Chair recognized the Clerk to call the roll for vote.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of H. B. No. 24-45 with the following results:

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada	Absent (Excused)
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	Absent (Excused)
Representative Marissa Renee Flores	Absent (Excused)
Representative Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona	Absent (Excused)
Representative Julie Marie Atalig Ogo	Absent (Excused)
Representative Malcolm Jason Omar	Absent (Excused)
Representative Raymond Ulloa Palacios	Absent (Excused)
Representative Elias Jerome Malite Rangamar	Absent (Excused)
Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan	Yes
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. Muna: Mr. Speaker, all 12 members present voted, “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 12 members voting “yes,” House Bill No. 24-45 hereby passes the House. Alright, with that, colleagues, in regards to House Bill No. 24-50, which is the bill for an act to authorize a loan between the Commonwealth government and the MPLT in the amount of **\$29,000,000.00** that requires a two-thirds vote. To which we fall short of today. There are only 12 of us present, and the two-thirds is 14. So, we are going to leave this on the bill calendar for the next session to act on. Hopefully we at least get 14 members, if not the full 20, back by then. I recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In addition to that, the members of the Board of Trustees had requested a meeting to speak further on their proposed amendment. So, while we are going to put this on hold, it buys us time to even do so with the members of trustees. Thank you.

The Chair recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand there is a change of request from the Chairman of Ways and Means, but the amendment was sent out to each member earlier. Can that amendment be entertained and addressed while the bill is on the calendar, or no?

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

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Attao Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the way the Floor Leader is thinking, but once we take action, we are going to take action to pass House Bill No. 24-50, then the amendments happen, and then we would have to go back to the main motion. Unless, the main motion is just going to die out.

The Chair recognized Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul.

Representative Ralph Naraja Yumul: So clarified. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you. And in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, just to address the concerns of the Floor Leader, the proposed substitute before us also does not include Section 104 on the request of the Board of Trustees and MPLT. That is the reason why we need to have a meeting with them to better understand what this proposal from MPLT does, if in the end we are to include it in the provisions. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Acting Floor Leader.

Acting Floor Leader Ralph Naraja Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does that give us the authority to list down the expenditures of what we are loaning? Meaning we are going to list down everything that needs to be addressed in the CNMI?

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

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Attao Tenorio: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the \$29,000,000.00, since we cannot loan directly for operations, they are using the \$29,000,000.00- I mean, the payment to the settlement fund for Fiscal Year 2026. That would then free up \$29,000,000.00 from the General Fund. The administration would have to submit the \$29,000,000.00 as a supplemental to 2026, so we can address those shortages that we actually made cuts to. If that answers the Floor Leaders concern.

The Chair recognized Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan.

Representative John Paul Palacios Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just exactly what Representative Attao had mentioned. This loan authorization that is before us, as a proposed legislation, only proposes to loan \$29,000,000.00 pension obligation money. That is all that it does. And then, when it frees up that money, that supplemental coming from the administration, that is when we can itemize out of that free up \$29,000,000.00. When we decide it in the committee of Ways and Means. Thank you.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 17, Miscellaneous Business, and recognized Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Daniel Iwashita Aquino, Jr.: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to thank everyone here, in this chamber, for their support for the passage of House Bill No. 24-54. I want to thank the Legal Counsel and the Clerk that made this thing possible. On behalf of the service members, this is a long time coming. And it is the first step. I humbly ask the Senate to swiftly pass this thing so we do not have any more issues with service members who are eager to assist our nation during times of disaster. I also want to thank my wife, who kept nagging me to push this bill through. Thank you for that. And with that, thank you so much.

The Chair recognized the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Diego Vincent Fejeran Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members, I am sure that we have been seen a lot on different media outlets and ongoing press releases from both sides of the two telecommunications entities. I think it is time, for me, to call in the Office of Broadband Policy Development. To, at least, call an audience with them to clarify some statements being made and just more of an informative session with this body, and the office. In no way, is this meant to intervene in whatever is going on. But it is more of an informative session with them. We are dealing with a big chunk of change with this grant. And, of course, nobody wants to see anything at risk. On a lighter note, I would like to wish the public and private employees a happy labor day, on behalf of the House.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. With that, I would like to task the committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to coordinate that meeting with the Broadband Policy to have an audience with them.

The Chair recognized Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan.

Representative Vincent Raymond Aldan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Mr. Vice Speaker. I have been communicating with the Broadband Policy Office, and also reading up on all the information, the news, and correspondence on the legal side. And they are willing and ready whenever we would like to bring them in. But I just want to make sure that everybody understands that this is not something that we should be trying to push buttons or anything like that. Because this is a federal program with federal jurisdiction in it. That is why I am not trying to say that we are not going to entertain it, but we just need to thread carefully with this. I have been communicating with them, and they are more than willing to come in any time we ask. So, I will make it happen. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai.

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform everyone that I attended the NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures) in Boston. It was great. It is just that I was the only one there, but we know why. I am also sorry that I was not able to stay back. I could not change my reservations over there. The next one will be, I think, they mentioned Seattle. So, it would be great if we have at least one person from each committee to attend, including the staff. Because it is like professional development. It is a good way to also network and get to know other members in the states. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. And thank you for representing us at the NCSL event. As you all know, we did adopt a resolution to recognize their 50 years. Yes, Representative Yangetmai?

Representative Denita Kaipat Yangetmai: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. Yes, I presented that to the president and he was happy about it. That was when I found out from Arturo that we were, well, I was supposed to attend the committee meetings. I did not know about them. So, now I am informing you. So, we need to go early to attend the committee meetings, and come up with resolutions to the issues we have. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Representative Blass Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao.

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” Tenorio Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just to piggy-back on Mr. Vice Speaker. And, thank you, Mr. Speaker for asking the Chairman of Transportation and Infrastructure committee to press with this meeting regarding the Broadband Office. It is definitely a sensitive issue and time is of the essence. We all know that President Trump has continuously pulled back on a lot of grants. This might be one of the potential grants. And I was just meeting one of the people in Guam last week. One of their issues was this specific broadband money that is taking its time in moving with the Guam projects down there. And their biggest fear is the deadline of, I believe, it is September 4th, if I am not mistaken. And if they do not meet that, the fear is that they might actually pull this grant away from them. And we are in the same situation right now. We do understand that in any big projects that are offered here to the CNMI that there is going to be a protest period. But we want to make sure we go through that protest period as quickly as possible so that we do not lose the potential grant that has already been afforded to the

CNMI. \$80,000,000.00 is going to do a lot of good work for the people of the CNMI. And one of the biggest things that we have continued to present to the broadband office is rather than be a spur off a line, have a main line actually going through the CNMI so that we never get cut off through technology, through the people of the rest of the world. Again, with you, Mr. Speaker, designating the Chairman of Transportation and Infrastructure, if we can get that meeting as quickly as possible. And hopefully hold off any more delays. Because this is money that is going to be infused into our economy. At the same time, obviously we will not see it right up front. But it is \$80,000,000.00 that is going to be infused into the economy, and at the same time provide better technology for each household here in the CNMI. So, thank you, again, Mr. Speaker, for asking the Chairman of Transportation and Infrastructure. We look forward to meeting with the broadband office and hopefully hold any type of delay, so that we can move forward with these projects and start spending these monies within the CNMI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There being no further discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Item No. 18, Announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There being discussion on the floor, the Chair moved down to Adjournment, and recognized the Acting Floor Leader.

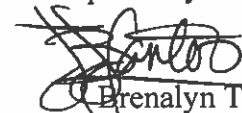
ADJOURNMENT

Acting Floor Leader Ralph Naraja Yumul: 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 11:26 a. m.

Respectfully submitted,


Brenalyn T. Santos
House Journal Clerk

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:

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on August 15, 2025:

H. B. NO. 24-45: To re-appropriate Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) under Public Law No. 21-10, Section 2(G), for operational expenses of the Office of the Mayor of the Municipality of Rota. Introduced by REP. JULIE M. A.

OGO of Rota, Precinct 7 (for herself) on August 15, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 24-46: To Define and Identify General Revenues and approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9 (a) of the CNMI Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Vincent R. Aldan, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, Elias J.M. Rangamar, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on August 15, 2025 and was moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. B. NO. 24-47: To realign the authority and duties of the CNMI Department of Labor; and for the other purposes. Introduced by REP. DIEGO V. F. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Marissa R. Flores, and Edmund S. Villagomez) on August 15, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-48: To adjust the 1992 salary cap of executive directors to a 2025 inflation-equivalent amount. Introduced by REP. ANGELO A. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 5 (for himself) on August 15, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H. B. NO. 24-49: To establish the CNMI Next/Gen 911 Telephone Communications System within the CNMI; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. MALCOLM J. OMAR of Saipan, Precinct 4 (for himself) on August 15, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. B. NO. 24-50: To authorize a loan between the Commonwealth Government and the Marianas Public Land Trust in the amount of \$29,000,000 and authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to withhold and retain net annual distributable income starting Fiscal Year 2026 for repayment and security of the loan. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself) on August 15, 2025; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-8/15/2025] H. B. NO. 24-51: To establish revolving accounts for the Department of Lands & Natural Resources; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLÁN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (for himself) on August 15, 2025. Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on August 18, 2025.

[ADDED-8/15/2025] H. B. NO. 24-52: An Act to strengthen current domestic and family violence laws to ensure the protections of women and children and to recognize and penalize digital and electronic harassment as acts of domestic and family violence; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. MARISSA R. FLORES of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for herself, Representative Julie M.A. Ogo) on August 15, 2025. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations on August 18, 2025.

[ADDED-8/15/2025] H. J. R. NO. 24-7: To encourage the Honorable David M. Apatang, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to declare a Proactive Resilience Emergency Declaration to protect the Commonwealth’s renewable energy future in light of the approaching federal deadline under the 2025 “Big Beautiful Budget” Act (BBB); and urging all agencies to fast-track renewable energy projects before the opportunity expires. Introduced by REP. VINCENT R. ALDAN of Saipan, Precinct 1 (for himself, Representatives Roman C. Benavente, Joel C. Camacho, and Elias J.M. Rangamar; Roy C.A. Ada, Daniel I. Aquino Jr., Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Angelo A. Camacho, Diego V. F. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DIC. Manglona, Julie M. A. Ogo, Malcolm J. Omar, Raymond U. Palacios, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez and Ralph N. Yumul) on August 15, 2025 and subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.