



Arnold I. Palacios
Governor

David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

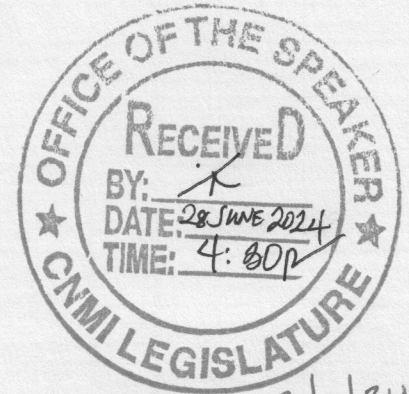
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 28, 2024

HOUSE CLERK'S OFF
RECEIVED BY *lela*
DATE *7/1/2024* TIME *2:23pm*

GOV2024-480

The Honorable John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman
Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950



7/1/24

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Local Bill No. 23-47, S1**, entitled "To appropriate \$348,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Notwithstanding my signature, I have disapproved the following parts of the enactment for the following reasons:

Vetoed – Page 2 Lines 7-9

Based on the opinion of the Attorney General, I will line-item veto the appropriation of \$35,000.00 for the installation of power poles and lights in western Garapan, as the language of the local bill fails to provide sufficient clarity and specificity as to the location and scope of this project.

I respectfully exercise my constitutional authority to line-item veto this provision.

I will likewise line-item veto the provision for the Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to be the expenditure authority for these funds, on the same grounds.

Additionally, I note that Article VI, Section 3(b) of the NMI Constitution provides that a mayor shall administer appropriations provided by law for the island or islands served by the mayor.

[Signature]
RECEIVED
06282024
@4:26 pm

Vetoed – Page 2 Lines 12–14

Section 2(E) of the local bill seeks to appropriate \$40,000.00 to the Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for its operations, notwithstanding the funding of \$7,162,560 already appropriated to the legislature for FY 2024 by Public Law 23-04, the annual appropriation bill.

Article II, Section 16 of the NMI Constitution imposes a ceiling on the annual budget of the legislature.

From the second constitutional convention in 1985 until HLI 10-8 in 1997, there was a constitutional legislative budget ceiling with a specified dollar amount.

HLI 10-8 changed the language to "the budget ceiling provided in this section" and provided a formula for calculation of the ceiling. The constitutional budget ceiling is now the aggregate of: \$150,000 per member; plus \$400,000 to the presiding officer for operations; plus \$2 million for the Legislative Bureau; all adjusted for inflation on a biannual basis from a baseline of January 1996 per the US DOC composite price index. *See* NMI CONST. art. II, § 16.

With 20 current House members, this yields a figure of \$5,400,000, adjusted for inflation from 1996 to 2022 to \$9,832,896.37.

The local bill provides no information as to how much in total has been appropriated to the legislature, including the legislative delegations, factoring in supplemental appropriation bills.

Because it cannot be determined from the language of the bill whether this supplemental appropriation would breach the constitutional legislative budget ceiling, I respectfully exercise my constitutional authority to line-item veto this provision.

I will likewise line-item veto the provision for the Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation to be the expenditure authority for these funds, on the same grounds.


With respect to those provisions I have line-item vetoed, I invite the Delegation to consider passing revised legislation which addresses the concerns noted by the Attorney General.

In particular, the Delegation could consider greater specificity and detail in appropriating funds to power pole projects in Garapan and delineating the respective scope of authority between the Delegation and the Saipan Mayor's Office for such projects more clearly.

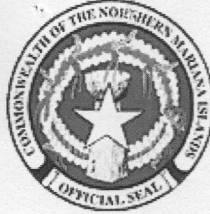
As for the legislative budget ceiling issue, I invite the SNILD, and all the delegations, both to transparently track the constitutional budget ceiling under Article II, Section 16 of the Constitution and to provide for the legislature's operations in the annual appropriation act as provided in the Planning and Budgeting Act.

With the exception of the vetoed portions, this Bill becomes **Saipan Local Law 23-19**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission; Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of the Northern Islands; CNMI Scholarship Office; Programs and Legislative Review



**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION, 2024**

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-47, S1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate \$348,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes.

OFFERED BY

**Representative Ralph N. Yumul
Prefiled on April 18, 2024
Introduced on May 2, 2024**

HOUSE ACTION

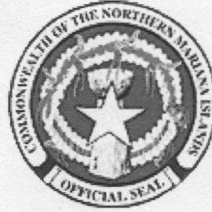
Transmitted to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for action on
May 2, 2024

DELEGATION ACTION

Referred to:	5/16/24 House Ways & Means Committee
Recalled from Committee:	5/31/24 Placed on Bill Calendar [Del. Matters 23-79]
Comments Solicited:	5/2/24 Mayor of Saipan [Del. Matters 23-72] Mayor of Northern Islands [Del. Matters 23-73] 17 th SNIMC [Del. Matters 23-74]]
Comments Received:	5/8/24 Mayor of Saipan [Mayors Comm. 23-18] 5/16/24 Mayor of Northern Islands under Public Comments
Standing Committee Report:	None
Passed First & Final Reading:	June 11, 2024 w/Substitute 1

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Joan P. Kaipat".

**Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk**



**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2024

H. L. B. NO. 23-47, S1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To appropriate \$348,000.00 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate local funds from the revenues collected for the Third
3 Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06.

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**

5 Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary and
6 pursuant to funds allocated to the Third Senatorial District the Saipan and Northern Islands
7 Legislative Delegation (SNILD) hereby appropriates \$348,000.00 of the revenues collected for the
8 Third Senatorial District pursuant to Saipan Local Law 22-06 as follows:

1 (A) \$148,000.00 for the Saipan Mayors Office for its operation (to include the 80th
2 anniversary of the battle of Saipan and the 78th Liberation Day), expenditure authority shall be the
3 Mayor of Saipan or his/her designee;

4 (B) \$100,000.00 for the CNMI Scholarship Office for the scholarship payments for the
5 students from the Third Senatorial District, expenditure authority shall be the Chairperson of the
6 Board of Directors of the CNMI Scholarship Office or his/her designee;

7 ~~(C) \$35,000.00 for the payment of the installation of power poles and lights in Western~~
8 ~~Garapan, expenditure authority shall be the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands~~
9 ~~Legislative Delegation (SNILD) or his/her designee;~~

10 (D) \$5,000.00 for the Music Performance Arts Competition Corporation (MPAAC),
11 expenditure authority shall be the Secretary of the Department of Finance or his/her designee;

12 ~~(E) \$40,000.00 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for is operations,~~
13 ~~expenditure authority shall be the Chairperson of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative~~
14 ~~Delegation or his/her designee; and~~

15 (F) \$20,000.00 for the Northern Islands Mayors Office (NIMO) for its personnel/operations,
16 expenditure authority shall be the Mayor of the Northern Islands.

17 **SECTION 3. REPROGRAMMING.**

18 Funds appropriated under this Act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose and
19 notwithstanding any provision of law, all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal
20 year limitation.

1 **SECTION 4. REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES.**

2 Expenditures of the funds allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be responsible to report
3 all expenses to the Secretary of the Department of Finance by the end of the 2024 calendar year.
4 Provided further that failure to provide all expenses, entities (Government, non-profits entities,
5 etc... excluding specific projects) that were afforded funds under this Act shall not be able to avail
6 to any future funds appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

7 **SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.**

8 If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or
9 circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act
10 or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held
11 invalid shall not be affected thereby.

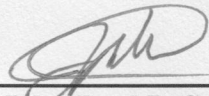
12 **SECTION 6. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

13 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing
14 right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or
15 order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
16 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
17 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in
18 existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

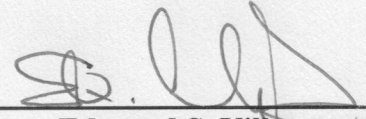
19 **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

20 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming law without such
21 approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

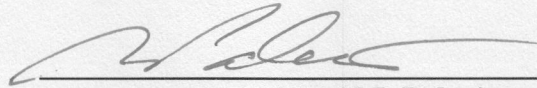


John Paul P. Sablan
Chairman
Saipan & Northern Islands Legislative Delegation



Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
23rd House of Representatives

Approved this 28th day of June, 2024.



Arnold I. Palacios
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands