

GOV. COMM: 23-127  
(HOUSE)

**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor

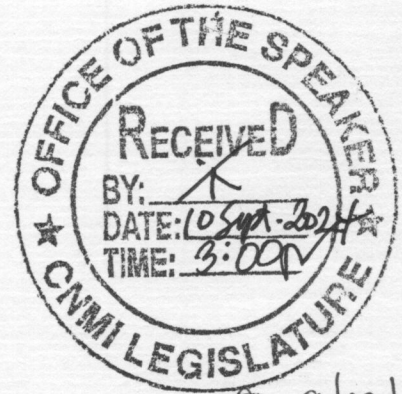
**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

September 10, 2024

LT 2024-118

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
Chairman  
Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950



9/10/24

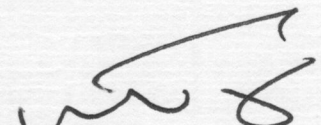
The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

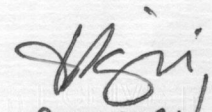
This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Local Bill No. 23-14** entitled, "To amend 10 CMC §§2513 (dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes." The bill was passed unanimously by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Tinian Local Law No. 23-15**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**DAVID M. APATANG**  
Acting Governor

HOUSE CLERK'S OFC  
RECEIVED BY [Signature]  
DATE 9/10/2024 TIME 3:47 PM

  
09/10/2024  
@2:54 pm

cc: Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision; Secretary of Finance;  
Public Auditor; Special Assistant for Administration; Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan;  
Programs & Legislative Review Office



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE  
FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2024**

**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-14**

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**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT  
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes.

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**OFFERED BY**

**Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas**

Prefiled on June 6, 2024

Introduced on June 20, 2024

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**HOUSE ACTION**

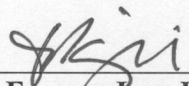
Transmitted to Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for action on  
July 7, 2024

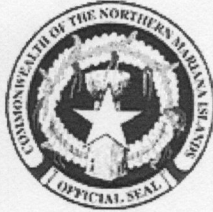
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**DELEGATION ACTION**

<b>Referred to:</b>	None
<b>Comments Solicited:</b>	7/10/24: Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan [Del. Matters 23-15] & Tinian & Aguiguan Municipal Council [Del. Matters 23-16]
<b>Comments Received:</b>	7/20/24: Mayors Comm. 23-06
<b>Special Committee Report:</b>	23-01 Adopted on August 14, 2024
<b>Passed First &amp; Final Reading:</b>	August 14, 2024

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Frances Joan P. Kaipat**  
Delegation Clerk



TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2024

H. L. B. 23-14

A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT  
FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes.

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

1 SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

2 The Twenty-Third Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation finds that in order to  
3 accommodate the change in our current economic situation as a result of the global effect of  
4 pandemic, businesses needed to reassess their structure to remain in operation and allow a chance  
5 to recover and grow. The Tinian and Aguiguan Delegation further finds that that in the interest of  
6 encouraging and fostering tourism and the casino gaming industry on Tinian, it is necessary to  
7 amend Tinian Local Law 21-09 in order to make Tinian more “investor friendly” and more  
8 competitive in the Pacific region. The Tinian Legislative Delegation and the entire leadership are  
9 committed to continue support to make needed changes in the policy to ensure the casino industry

1 on the island remains a viable option for economic development. Accordingly, the purpose of this  
2 local legislation is to reduce the number of required sleeping units under the definition of “hotel”  
3 or “approved hotel” from two hundred to fifty.

4 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

5 10 CMC § 2513 (dd), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09, is hereby amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 “(dd) “Hotel” or “approved hotel” means building containing a minimum of 50 ~~200~~  
8 sleeping units, each of which shall contain at least 325 square feet measured to the center of  
9 perimeter walls, including bathroom and closet space and excluding hallways, balconies and  
10 lounges, each containing private bathroom facilities, and each held available and used regularly  
11 for the lodging of tourists and guests and conforming in all respects to the agreement referred to  
12 in 10 CMC § 2532. In no event shall the main entrance or only access to an approved hotel be  
13 through a casino.”

14 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.**

15 10 CMC § 2531 (d), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09, is hereby amended to read  
16 as follows:

17 “(d) the conduct of internet gaming pursuant to a casino license, in accordance with this  
18 chapter and any other applicable Act, the regulations established by the commission to regulate  
19 internet gaming and internet gaming operators, and the operating agreement relating to the  
20 particular license permitting the conduct of internet gaming, is lawful. Operating internet gaming  
21 is conditioned on having a hotel with at least fifty (50) units ~~two hundred (200) units which may~~

1 be built in phases of 100 units per phase as authorized by TCGCC and an operational Hotel-casino  
2 complex casino and the implementation of a geolocation software limiting internet gaming  
3 activities to within intra-island borders of the Second Senatorial District and between jurisdictions  
4 where the conduct of internet gaming is legal.”

5 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

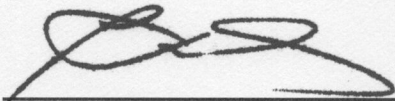
10 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

17 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

CERTIFIED BY:




**Karl R. King-Nabors**  
**Chairman**  
Tinian & Aguiguan Legislative Delegation



**Joel C. Camacho**  
**Acting Speaker**  
23<sup>rd</sup> House of Representatives

Approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024.



**David M. Apatang**  
**Acting Governor**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
Second Senatorial District  
*Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors, Chairman  
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Vice Chair

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz, Floor Leader  
Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Legislative Secretary

Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Bldg. • Capitol Hill • P. O. Box 500129 • Saipan, MP 96950

ADOPTED 8/14/24 JAC

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23- 01

Date: May 21, 2024

RE: House Local Bill No. 23-14

Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
Chairperson  
Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation  
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation (Delegation), to which was referred House Local Bill No. 23-14, entitled:

“To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes,”

begs leave to report as follows:

**I. RECOMMENDATION:**

After considerable discussion and deliberation, the Delegation recommends the passage of the proposed legislation in the form of House Local Bill No. 23-14.

**II. ANALYSIS:**

A) Purpose:

The purpose of House Local Bill No. 22-14 is to reduce the number of sleeping units required under the definition of “hotel” or “approved hotel” from 200 to 50 units.

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2024  
MAY 21

B) Delegation Findings:

The Delegation finds that since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic businesses were challenged with the decision to reassess their operations in an effort to survive the economic cliff as a result of the pandemic. Understanding the dilemma of the private sectors with the need to boost local revenue and in good faith to support the endeavors of the casino industry, the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation unanimously agrees that the definition of “hotel” or “approved hotel” as defined under 10 CMC § 2513 (dd) should be amended to reduce the total number of required sleeping units from 200 to 50. Accordingly, 10 CMC § 2531 is also amended to ensure consistency with the intent of the proposed legislation.

A public hearing was held on May 21, 2024 to receive input from public and private entities and the general public. In summation of the oral testimonies received, three statements were made in support and no oral testimony was made in opposition of the proposed legislation.

It is for these reasons, that the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation strongly supports the intent of the proposed legislation and recommends its passage in its original form of House Local Bill No. 23-14.

C) Legislative History:

House Local Bill No. 23-14 was formally introduced by Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas on June 20, 2023. Pursuant to 1 CMC § 1403, the proposed legislation appeared for three legislative days on: June 20, 2023; June 28, 2023; and July 7, 2023.

On July 7, 2023 House Local Bill No. 23-14 was transmitted to the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation for disposition.

D) Public Hearing and Comment:

1. Public Hearing. A public hearing was scheduled for House Local Bill No. 23-14. Testimonies below may have been lightly edited to remove false starts, fillers, stutters and repeated words; testimonies provided in the indigenous vernacular are italicized; and technical edits made for proper legislative citation. Oral testimonies received by invited public/private entities and the general public are as follows:

- a. Tuesday, May 21, 2024- Tinian Public Library, San Jose, Tinian

- i. Testimonies by Invited Public/Private Entities:

1. Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan (*Please see written copy of oral testimony attached to this report.*)



2. 19<sup>th</sup> Tinian Municipal Council- *No written or oral testimony was provided.*
3. Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission- *No written or oral testimony was provided.*
4. Tinian Municipal Treasurer- *No written or oral testimony was provided.*
5. Office of the Attorney General- *No written or oral testimony was provided.*

ii. Testimonies by the General Public:

1. David E. Evangelista, Jr., personal testimony

"I'm speaking as a private citizen and I am no longer employed by the municipality for your information. I'm no longer engaged by the municipality. My name is David M. Evangelista, Jr. I do support upgrading the development and upgrading the standard of living especially on the island of Tinian, especially the local people. The only thing I question about is, are we ready for the infrastructure of putting in more hotels? As of this time, Mr. Chairman, I do understand that everybody wants development. But, are we ready with our infrastructure?"

Second, internet gaming, did we thoroughly do a feasibility study that will be collecting and how; and where do we collect from the electronics? Are we equipped with the electronic and people who know e-gaming thoroughly? Did we do any due diligence on internet gaming? Do we have any study? Let's say for example, Saipan, they passed their own internet gaming. Have we seen any collections from internet gaming lately? Can we get the study from, somehow the United States or somewhere where it is practiced every day? Also, the population. How many people are doing internet gaming? I am not against any development or money generation for our municipality in order for the municipality to have more FTEs. That's the most important part in the municipality, is FTE. Second, we are in dire need of money to employ more people and put the buying power of the people. So, in order for us to collect at the end of the fiscal year, we have collections. When you take away 10 hours, that means you don't have any buying power. That means, you're ending up more deeper in the hole without any collection. So, with all due respect, Mr. Chairman, I think we need to do our due diligence with internet gaming so we have

more studies in order for us to move forward with it. Now, if it's done already and it's all passed and it's all said and done, I'm wishing you guys good luck and I hope there's no hiccups along the way. We have to really, really do our diligence and study this more in order for Tinian to prosper in gaming. And the other one, are we maximizing our minimum wage, you know. So far, we're still on \$7.25. For some folks they do get paid \$10.00, We need to level up, you know, and give the people the power for us to collect at the end of the fiscal year. I'm not an economist but I think it's a simple common sense. Thank you so much."

2. Jose Pangelinan Kiyoshi, personal testimony

*"Hafa adai yan Buenas. I na'an-hu for the record si Jose Pangelinan Kiyoshi. I'm here as a private citizen. Malago ha yo para baihu echo i fino-na i Mayor. Anai gaige yo gi Gaming Commission we actually have this idea of ni para uma amenda este i 300 rooms to 50 rooms, sa an para ta atan i yoku getting out of este i Gaming Commission hu komprende yan klaru na an investor hao nai ya mato hao gi tano ileko na i investor mas impotanti para hu haksa i casino, polu i kuation ya giya la'mon manu ni hu na fañaga i yoña siha players lao hu komprende na global este ekonomia ya komu un yute' papa buenti gi 50 ileko na guaha buenti Guam siempre man atan magi. I otro lakkue yahu na an man ékungok este i Tinian Daimond, impotanti lakkue ni uma atan i yon operation no, sa gaige siha i market gi uriya lao poddong papa esta gi 50 rooms ya hu supopota este na amendment kintodo lakkue etyi i internet gaming, ta na'i si Yu'us ma'ase para si Senator Jude ni ha introdusi. Buenti in tungo ha lakkue este sports betting na dangkulun salape nu Amerika buenti an ti lachi yo' 30 days esta ma legalized and then estaba illegal este sports betting and I believe the Supreme Court Ruled na it is up to the State kao man malago. Si Yu'us ma'ase."*

2. Written Comment. The Delegation solicited for written comments on July 10, 2023 and July 27, 2023, respectively. Status of written comments received by the Delegation on the proposed legislation are as follows:
- a. Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan-  
*Received on July 20, 2023*
  - b. Honorable Joseph E. Santos, Chairman, 19<sup>th</sup> Tinian Municipal Council- No written comment received.
  - c. Antonio SN. Borja, Chairman, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission-  
*Received on July 28, 2023*

E) Estimated Fiscal Cost:

The enactment of the proposed legislation seeks to reduce the minimum number of sleeping units from 200 to 50. Although the intent of the original language aimed to set a minimum of 200 units to support local economic development for the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, it is essential that the local government hear and address the concerns of the private businesses recovering from the aftermath of a global pandemic in a dwindling economy who wish to continue investing into the local economy. Therefore, the efforts made to support local investment outweigh the adjusted cost.

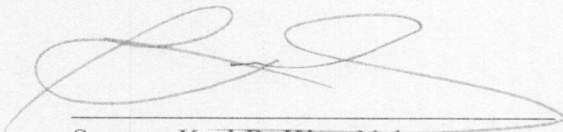
F) Summary of Amendments:

No amendments were made to the proposed legislation.

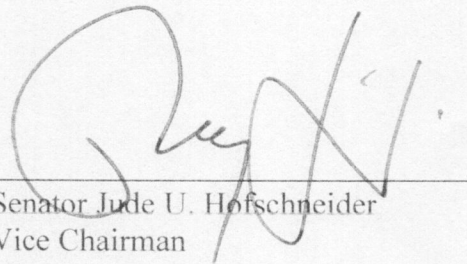
**III. CONCLUSION:**

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation agrees with the intent and purpose of the proposed legislation and recommends its passage in the form of House Local Bill No. 23-14.


Respectfully submitted,



Senator Karl R. King-Nabors  
Chairman



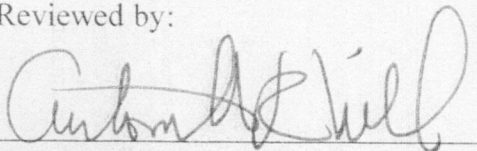
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider  
Vice Chairman



Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
Floor Leader

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas  
Legislative Secretary

Reviewed by:



Legal Counsel

**TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

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SESSION, 2023

H. L. B. 23- 14

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**A LOCAL BILL FOR AN ACT**  
**FOR THE SECOND SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE**

2       The Twenty-Third Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation finds that in  
3 order to accommodate the change in our current economic situation as a result of  
4 the global effect of pandemic, businesses needed to reassess their structure to  
5 remain in operation and allow a chance to recover and grow. The Tinian and  
6 Aguiguan Delegation further finds that that in the interest of encouraging and  
7 fostering tourism and the casino gaming industry on Tinian, it is necessary to amend  
8 Tinian Local Law 21-09 in order to make Tinian more “investor friendly” and more  
9 competitive in the Pacific region. The Tinian Legislative Delegation and the entire  
10 leadership are committed to continue support to make needed changes in the policy

1 to ensure the casino industry on the island remains a viable option for economic  
2 development. Accordingly, the purpose of this local legislation is to reduce the  
3 number of required sleeping units under the definition of “hotel” or “approved  
4 hotel” from two hundred to fifty.

5 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.**

6 10 CMC § 2513 (dd), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09, is hereby  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 “(dd) “Hotel” or “approved hotel” means building containing a minimum of  
9 50 ~~200~~ sleeping units, each of which shall contain at least 325 square feet measured  
10 to the center of perimeter walls, including bathroom and closet space and excluding  
11 hallways, balconies and lounges, each containing private bathroom facilities, and  
12 each held available and used regularly for the lodging of tourists and guests and  
13 conforming in all respects to the agreement referred to in 10 CMC § 2532. In no  
14 event shall the main entrance or only access to an approved hotel be through a  
15 casino.

16 **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.**

17 10 CMC § 2531 (d), as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09, is hereby  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 “(d) the conduct of internet gaming pursuant to a casino license, in  
20 accordance with this chapter and any other applicable Act, the regulations  
21 established by the commission to regulate internet gaming and internet gaming

1 operators, and the operating agreement relating to the particular license permitting  
2 the conduct of internet gaming, is lawful. Operating internet gaming is conditioned  
3 on having a hotel with at least fifty (50) units ~~two hundred (200) units which may~~  
4 ~~be built in phases of 100 units per phase as authorized by TCGCC~~ and an  
5 operational Hotel-casino complex casino and the implementation of a geolocation  
6 software limiting internet gaming activities to within intra-island borders of the  
7 Second Senatorial District and between jurisdictions where the conduct of internet  
8 gaming is legal.”

9 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

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

15 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

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

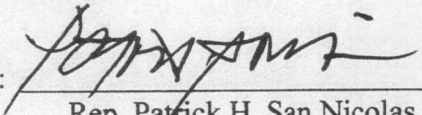
1 existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

2 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

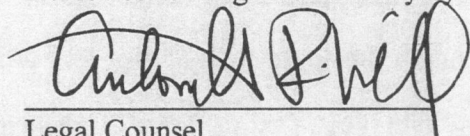
3 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming  
4 law without such approval.

Prefiled: 6/16/2023

Date: 6/6/23

Introduced by:   
Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
Legal Counsel

*Attachments:*

1. *Public Hearing Attendance Record*
  - a. *TALD & Support Staff Attendance*
  - b. *General Public Attendance*
2. *Copies of Oral Testimonies Stated During the Hearing*
  - a. *Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan*
3. *Written Testimonies Officially Received by the Delegation*
  - a. *Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, letter received on July 20, 2023*
  - b. *Antonio SN. Borja, Chairman, Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission- letter received on July 28, 2023*



**ATTACHMENT 1.**

***PUBLIC HEARING ATTENDANCE RECORD***

- a. TALD & Support Staff Attendance*
- b. General Public*



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**  
**Second Senatorial District**  
*Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors, Chairman  
 Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Vice Chair

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz, Floor Leader  
 Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Legislative Secretary

**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing: House Local Bill No. 23-14 and Senate Local Bill No. 23-05  
**DATE:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024  
**TIME:** 5:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Tinian Public Library  
 San Jose, Tinian

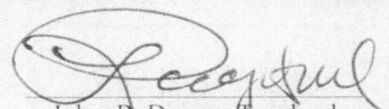
**ROLL CALL- ATTENDANCE. TALD MEMBERS**

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz Floor Leader	✓		
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider Vice Chairman		✓	✓
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors Chairman	✓		
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas Legislative Secretary	✓		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b> Present	<b>1</b> Absent	<b>1</b> Excused

**ATTENDANCE. LEGISLATIVE BUREAU SUPPORT STAFF**

- Antonette R. Villagomez, Legal Counsel
- Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel, Legislative Assistant
- F. Joan Kaipat, Delegation Clerk
- Benjamin Terlaje, Sergeant-at-Arms
- Jonathan Deleon Guerrero, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms
- Delbert Camacho, IT Assistant

**CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT**

  
 Jolyn B. Duenas-Tagabuel  
 Legislative Assistant



**TINIAN AND AGUIGUAN LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**  
**Second Senatorial District**  
*Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors, Chairman  
 Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Vice Chair

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz, Floor Leader  
 Rep. Patrick H. San Nicolas, Legislative Secretary

**Date:** Tuesday, May 21, 2024

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Tinian Public Library

**Subject:** Public Hearing

1. **House Local Bill No. 23-14:** To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes.
2. **Senate Local Bill No. 23-05:** To amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(ii) and 2531 to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming; and for other purposes.

*Participation in this public sign-in sheet is not mandatory and is voluntary. Please provide the information below at your discretion.*

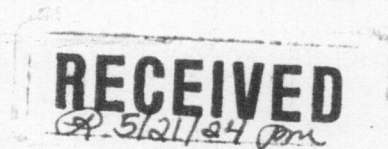
	Contact Information	House Local Bill No. 23-14	Senate Local Bill No. 23-05
1	Name: <u>ANAMARE SAN NICOLAS</u> Contact No.: <u>267-7132</u> Email: <u>cruzst12@gmail.com</u> Organization: <u>TMC</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
2	Name: <u>Allen Peircz</u> Contact No.: <u>433-1800</u> Email: <u>allen-peircz@hotmail.com</u> Organization: <u>MOI</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
3	Name: <u>Melanie M. Cruz</u> Contact No.: <u>(670) 433-1804</u> Email: <u>cruzmelanie91@gmail.com</u> Organization: <u>MOT</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
4	Name: <u>David Evangelista</u> Contact No.: <u>N/A</u> Email: <u>N/A</u> Organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
5	Name: <u>Jose Rodriguez</u> Contact No.: <u>433-2644</u> Email: _____ Organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
6	Name: <u>Mary Susan Ponz</u> Contact No.: <u>(670) 783-0016</u> Email: <u>em.finion@commerce.gov.mp</u> Organization: <u>Dept. of Commerce</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
7	Name: <u>HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS</u> Contact No.: <u>(670) 985-6947</u> Email: <u>hhsannicolas@gmx.jp</u> Organization: <u>TCCCC</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
8	Name: _____ Contact No.: _____ Email: _____ Organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
9	Name: _____ Contact No.: _____ Email: _____ Organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided
10	Name: _____ Contact No.: _____ Email: _____ Organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/> In Favor <input type="checkbox"/> Oppose <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

**ATTACHMENT 2.**

***COPIES OF ORAL TESTIMONIES STATED  
DURING THE HEARING (1)***

**Public Hearing - Mayor's Remarks**  
*Tuesday, May 21, 2024*

Hafa adai, tirow, and good afternoon,



Thank you to everyone present here for taking the time to join us for this necessary public hearing addressing House Local Bill 23-14 and Senate Local Bill 23-05, as these bills have the potential to impact our economy significantly. As your mayor, I strongly support House Local Bill 23-14, which seeks to amend Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the required sleeping units for a hotel from two hundred to fifty. Given the current economic challenges of the CNMI, we must consider passing this proposed house bill to preserve our hotel businesses on the island.

Considering the closure of Hyatt and hearing the Chamber of Commerce's concerns regarding the grave challenges businesses are experiencing due to the lack of tourism activities in the CNMI, it is worrisome that everyone is struggling to get by while some are on the verge of collapsing or closing shop. It is important that we pay close attention to these concerns and find ways to come up with a middle ground, providing some relief for not just the hotels but other related businesses.

These challenges pose a significant detriment to Tinian due to the ongoing military buildup and increased demand for housing and hotels. This shortage has also hampered our ability to provide lodging to accommodate tourists and off-island guests, especially during our annual festivals and events. Moreover, the surge in material costs in recent years has led to construction project delays for new or existing hotels and many of our infrastructure projects. This amendment is

necessary to alleviate these pressures and ensure that current and future hotel operators can continue their operations without fearing closure, and the sooner we act, the sooner we can start rebuilding our economy.

Turning our attention to Senate Local Bill No. 23-05, I fully endorse the amendments to the Internet gaming bill. The gaming industry has undergone a significant transformation in this digital age, and we must adapt to meet the changing global environment. Internet gaming is no longer confined to physical rooms; it has expanded to include online bingo and various casino apps. By embracing this change, we attract potential investors and anticipate generating additional revenues for our local municipality. Internet gaming is a promising industry key to our community's economic prosperity. It's time to seize this opportunity and pave the way for a brighter future.

In conclusion, both bills present our community with opportunities for development and adaptation. By supporting these measures, we are not just paving the way for Tinian toward a resilient and prosperous future, but we are also demonstrating the strength of our community and our collective commitment to its well-being. I want to extend my appreciation to the Tinian Legislative Delegation for the opportunity to express my support for House Local Bill No. 23-14 and Senate Local Bill No. 23-05. Let us remember that these bills are not just about the present, but about securing a better future for our community, and your support is crucial in this journey.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and have a great evening!

**ATTACHMENT 3.**

***WRITTEN TESTIMONIES OFFICIALLY  
RECEIVED BY THE DELEGATION (2)***



## Office of the Mayor

*Municipality of Tinian & Aguiguan*

**Edwin P. Aldan**  
Mayor

July 20, 2023

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors  
Chairman  
23<sup>rd</sup> Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation  
P.O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

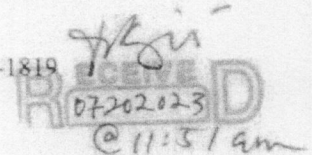
**Re: Comments on Proposed House Local Bills for the Second Senatorial District**

Dear Mr. Chairman,

*Buenas yan Hafa Adai!* My office received your letter dated July 10, 2023, soliciting for comments and feedback on the proposed HLB No. 23-13, 23-14, and 23-18, in my capacity as the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan. Below I provide you and the members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation with my feedback regarding the proposed bills.

**House Local Bill No. 23-13** seeks to appropriate \$124,000 from revenues collected from poker fees in the Second Senatorial District, which will be given to the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan for personnel and operations. Given the CNMI and the municipality's current financial state, we have been trying to identify funds that may be used to supplement the personnel and operations budget for our office. With the proposed FY2024 budget, and the anticipated cut that the Municipality will endure, affects our ability to provide the basic and adequate services to our community. Therefore, this proposed bill will allow for some relief on our end, until such time, additional funding sources are identified to supplement the anticipated shortfall in the upcoming FY2024 budget.

**House Local Bill 23-14**, seeks to amend 10 CMC §§ 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law 21-09 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes. As indicated in the proposed bill, this change is intended to make the island of Tinian more investor-friendly. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the CNMI and Tinian's ability to maintain its tourism and gaming industry. It has been a challenge to bring the CNMI and Tinian back to pre-pandemic levels in order to sustain our economy. I firmly believe that this bill will make it easier for potential investors to invest in Tinian and construct more hotels as we are limited in lodging accommodations for guests or visitors who arrive. Currently, we have





seen the increase of Air B&Bs to accommodate the limited hotel rooms on Tinian. As the Air B&Bs are something new that is being offered, it still isn't enough to accommodate the arrival of visitors, especially during times when our annual festivals are held. It is my hope that with having this specific section amended, it will allow for attracting more investors to establish hotel businesses on the island to supplement the current shortage of hotel rooms.

And lastly, **House Local Bill 23-18** seeks to re-appropriate \$36,000 allotted under Tinian Local Law 23-01; and \$40,000 from Tinian Local Law 23-02; with a combined total of \$76,000, which will be given to the Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan for the personnel and operations, to include the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission personnel. As what was mentioned above, the current fiscal state of the Municipality is not adequate enough to supplement and sustain all the needs of our office. Therefore, the funding identified by the delegation will go a long way in assisting the critical functions of the Municipality and not disrupt the basic services that we provide to the public. Moreover, our current funding level identified for TCGCC personnel is only enough to reach the month of August 2023, and with this additional funding we will be able to extend the payroll of TCGCC personnel past the month of August.

In closing, I would like to inform the members of the delegation that I am in full support of House Local Bill No. 23-13, 23-14 and 23-18 as these proposed bills will greatly assist the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, for the opportunity to provide my feedback for your consideration and I look forward to the expeditious passage of all the proposed bills.

*Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

Sincerely,



**Edwin P. Aldan**  
Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan



MISC. COMM. NO. 23-02

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION (TALD)

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



Antonio SN. Borja  
Chairman

July 28, 2023

Charlene M. Lizama  
Executive Director

James M. Mendiola  
Vice Chairman

Henry H. San Nicolas  
Member

Donald M. Hofschneider  
Member

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors, Chairman  
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider, Vice-Chair  
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz, Floor Leader  
Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas, Legislative Secretary  
Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation ("TALD")  
Second Senatorial District

**Re: Comments in Support of HLB NO. 23-14: To amend 10 CMC § 2513(dd) and 2531(d) as established by Tinian Local Law No. 21-9 by reducing the number of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50; and for other purposes."**

Dear Members of the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation:

Thank you for the opportunity extended to me, to submit my comments regarding HLB NO. 23-14.

As you are already aware, the casino gaming industry in our jurisdiction has been dormant over the years, due to unforeseen economic conditions that have occurred not only within the CNMI, but which has also occurred globally.

As stated in HLB No. 23-14, as the Chairman of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission ("TCGCC"), and also on a personal level, I strongly believe that all businesses in various sectors should be given the opportunity to recover and grow, due to our present economic condition.

The TCGCC members and I, unanimously agree, that certain provisions of the Revised Gaming Act of 1989, reenacted by Tinian Local Law No. 21-9, must be revisited at times, and amended, if deemed necessary, to ensure that our casino gaming industry is more "investor friendly", and competitive, with nearby regions, that are engaged in casino gaming activities.

Therefore, by reducing the requirement of minimum sleeping units from 200 to 50, I believe it will be more enticing for more potential investors to apply for the remaining casino licenses available for issuance, within our gaming jurisdiction. Hence, having more casino license holders/operators will provide more economic activities for our Municipality.

P.O. Box 520143 Tinian, MP 96952 \* Tel: (670) 433-9288/9292

Office of the Delegation Clerk  
Received by: *[Signature]*  
Date/Time: 7/28/23 @ 12/4 pm

Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation  
July 28, 2023  
Page 2

I also believe, that this reduction in the number of minimum sleeping units will also not deter the current active casino license holder, and other potential casino operators, to proceed and construct more sleeping units, if deemed necessary, based on the progression and performance of their hotel and casino complex activities.

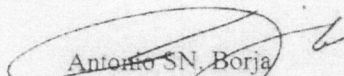
Furthermore, by having more casino operators licensed in our jurisdiction, we can anticipate the increase of local gaming revenue collections for our Municipality, and this will also provide incentives for the creation of job opportunities in the public and private sectors with the entrance of other businesses which will be involved either directly or indirectly with the gaming industry.

Based on these reasons, I am submitting these written comments in strong support of HLB 23-14.

Once again, as the Chairman of the TCGCC, and as requested by Senator Karl King-Nabors, Chairman of the TALD, to provide comments on this House Local Bill, I am requesting that the Members of the TALD, take into consideration the comments I have submitted, as you deliberate on HLB 23-14, and decide on its final version.

I hope that this House Local Bill will be acted on immediately, to ensure that the gaming industry within our jurisdiction will become a viable one, which benefits both the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sincerely,

  
Antonio SN Borja  
TCGCC Chairman

cc: Members  
Executive Director