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THE SENATE TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

FIRST REGULAR SESSION – 2023

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SJ 23-02

Second Day

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, issued a session call on February 8, 2023 that the Senate of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.net

The Honorable Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero, President of the Senate, presided.

Senate President DeLeon Guerrero: Today is the Second Day, Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 10:15 A.M., for the First Regular Session of the Senate year 2023. For the viewing public, thank you so much for joining us this morning. And before we do a roll call, may I please ask everybody to stand for a moment of silence.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Senate President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you. Clerk, can you please call the roll.

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Presente</i>
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Here
Senator Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero(President)	Here
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Gaige'ha</i>
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors	Absent
Senator Corina L. Magofna	<i>Gaige'ha</i>
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Present
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Here
Senator Dennis C. Mendiola	Here

CLERK: Madam President, eight (8) members are present and one (1) absent.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Clerk. Let the record reflect that Senator King-Nabors is excused from attending this morning's session. Before we move on to public comment, I'd like to recognize Senator Paul Manglona. Senator?

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Yes. Well, first off, I just want to clarify that under Senate Resolution calendar, there are some resolutions there in particular also is Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-01, which was referred to the Committee on Federal Relations. And I guess that's on our calendar, but because there's also a similar legislation, but in the form of a Senate Bill that addresses the same issue that we will not act on this resolution. And also, I would like to say that pursuant to Rule VI, Section 2 on the placement of bills, I just want to and I don't know how to do this either to change our agenda today or to inform the members that I wish to place on our calendar. But because it is a Senate Bill we cannot it today until the next session pursuant to Section 2 of Rule VI. So, I just want to put a notice that the committee intends to report out Senate, I mean, House Bill. This is on House Bill 23-6 and it's to amend the law on net metering so that we clarify that education entity actually includes our public libraries. So, I understand under public comment the Director Ms. Naputi will be commenting on the need for this legislation, which we're very fortunate to have federal funds for, but they cannot move forward unless this law is clarified. So, I so move at this point to place on our calendar for next sessions consideration, House Bill 23-6. So move.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Paul. Do I hear a second for that motion to not act on a specific Senate Resolution 23-01 until the next session, and also to place on calendar House Bill 23-6 for action on the next Senate session.

The motion was seconded.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Is there any objection to the members? All those in favor say, "aye". Nays?

Several members voiced, "aye".

President DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. Those two particular legislations will be acted on the next Senate session. Thank you so much.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President DeLeon Guerrero: Now we're moving on to the agenda on Item B for public comment. If you please just step up to the microphone. State your name for the record which entity or private sector company you are representing. And also, if you have a written comment to please hand it over to the Sergeant-At-Arms after your comments to the Senate body. And state your name please. You have about five minutes to make your comment. Thank you very much.

Erlinda C. Naputi: Good morning Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero, Vice President Donald Manglona, Floor Leader Corina Magofna, and Honorable Senators of our 23rd Legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you here today. My name is Erlinda C. Naputi. I am the Library Director for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, the CNMI State Library. On behalf of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library, I am humbly asking for your full support of House Bill 23-6; To amend

4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries; and for other purposes. Why should you support House Bill 23-6? The Joeten Kiyu Public Library struggles to pay its utility bills each month. The Commonwealth government cannot afford to fully subsidize JKPL. In order to satisfy our monthly utility bills, we humbly ask for your support to prioritize net metering to include our public libraries. The only way to reduce utility costs is to utilize renewable energy sources to offset the electricity or other utility required for the operations of JKPL. In FY 2022, the total annual visitors to the Joeten Kiyu Public Library was 68,000. In order to keep our JKPL effectively open to the public, we need three 20-ton air conditioners. In order to maintain all our collections, we must ensure that our libraries maintain at 72 degrees due to our collection of the following library materials. One hundred and twenty thousand books, archives, artifacts, computers, servers, as well as an assortment of year-round library programming and community outreach platforms that serve the informational, recreational, and literary needs of our island community. Our HVAC system regulates a temperature and air quality of our entire 20,000 square feet facility. A survey performed by the Library of Congress estimated that as many as 25% of books in its general collection receives good care and is well housed. The survey also stated that collection in tropical countries are often stored in higher temperatures under greater humidity, and maybe in worse condition. In FY 2022 and FY 2023, the direct appropriations for the from the CNMI government for JKPL's utility was zero. The financial condition of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library has led JKPL to accrue an account payable to CUC of approximately \$70,000.00 thus far. While the JKPL is revamping its energy policy to lessen the usage of power. The real problem is the rising cost of fuel in the Pacific Islands region. The Joeten Kiyu Public Library's solar power project seeks to implement solar power and photovoltaic systems for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library with net metering between the JKPL facility and the electric power grid of CUC. JKPL proposes to implement a proven solar power system to reduce the dependence on imported fossil fuels, lessen greenhouses gases, promote energy sustainability, and lessen the cost of power to JKPL. The JKPL expects an annual savings of at least a 100% in utility costs with solar panels in operation. Energy savings to the CNMI government will continue to grow despite the continued rise in global fuel and cost. In FY 2022, JKPL's annual utility was \$104,000.00 and net metering result in an estimated net electric bill of zero anticipated dollars over time. JKPL will save millions of dollars in utility costs and utilize the money saved for other essential needs of our community and education entities. Last year we actively sought congressional earmark funding assistance from US Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan's office for the JKPL Solar Power System and for furniture upgrades for the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library on Rota, the Tinian Public Library, Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. And I am pleased to report that on December 30, 2022, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library received that a congratulatory letter from U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan, informing us that our projects were included in the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2023, was signed into law by President Biden in December, 2022. U.S. Congressional funding worth almost \$1.7 million was allotted for the following. \$1.2 million for the Joeten-Kiyu Solar Power System and \$436,191.00 for the Public Library's furniture upgrade for the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library, Tinian Public Library, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library. As author Sidney Sheldon said: "Libraries stores the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better. Please support House Bill 23-6; To amend 4 CMC § 8112 to prioritize net metering to include public libraries and for other purpose. *Un dankolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Ms. Naputi. If you can please just give the Sergeant-At-Arms your written comments.

Erlinda C. Naputi: And Madam President, I submitted it to your office this morning and so as to Chairman Paul Manglona. Thank you.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you very much. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*. We are still open for public comments for any items on the agenda, anybody else? Okay. That officially closes the public comments section of this session this morning. Moving on to Item C, reading an approval of the journal. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madam President, and good morning everyone. Members, we have SJ 23-01, First Day, Organizational Session dated January 9, 2023 on our agenda for adoption and approval, and I move for its adoption.

The motion has been seconded.

President DeLeon Guerrero: There has been a motion for Senate Journal 23-01 First Day, Organizational Session dated January 9, 2023. A motion for adoption and it has been seconded. All those in favor say, "aye". Nays?

Several members voiced, "aye".

President DeLeon Guerrero: Motion carries. Senate Journal 23-01 passes the Senate or is adopted by the Senate. Moving on to Item D of the agenda this morning, Messages from the Governor. Clerk?

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Senate Clerk voiced Governor's Message Nos. 23-01 to 23-35.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you. Any comments from the members on Governor's Communications? I recognize Senator Donald Manglona.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Madam President, I just want to point out Governor's Message 23-02. And this was signed in the law right before the former governor left office just to share with the public and to put on record that house or Public Law 22-26 now allows for importation of vehicles that are 25 years old or older. And I know that there are several at least several of our constituents have brought this concern up, seeing as how it's becoming something that we see a lot of on Guam and, you know, it's time that we also have this here in the CNMI and this would provide for a much cheaper alternative for our farmers and ranchers as well as just any residents that are wanting to conserve or save on, on transportation costs. And so, there's a much-needed legislation and I'm glad that it is now law. And so, it's just so that the public is made aware.

I know they've called me to inquire what's the status on that. Additionally, just to thank the former Governor Torres for signing into law Public Law 22-32. It's the, to provide for, or to amend Division 4, Title VI of the Commonwealth Code relating to disposition of offenders and sentencing to provide criteria for imposition of enhanced sentencing of defendants for crimes motivated by hate. And then, you know, this would again, further provide safeguards for the welfare and the safety of our people by criminalizing crimes motivated by hate, especially when it deals with affecting the you know, people of different race or color, natural origin, age, ancestry, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, religious practice, disability or sexual orientation of the defendant. And so, you know, this would again penalize individuals for crimes motivated by hate. And so, again much appreciation to former Governor Torres. Thank you, Madam President.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Donald Manglona for your comments on those specific two items under the Governor's Message. Any other comments I recognize now Senator Celina Babauta.

Senator Babauta: Thank you Madam President. I also want to call to the attention of Governor's Message 23-14. I want to thank Governor Palacios for signing this bill to law. I authored it in the 22nd House of Representatives. It was originally House Bill 22-39, House Substitute (1), which is to amend Title VI, Division 6, Chapter 5. Witnesses by adding a new section 6503. Witness to Outcry of abuse; and for other purposes. And this particular legislation was already adjudicated in the United States, in *Ohio v Clark*, U.S. 237 2015, and provides that children who were abused at the age of 16 years old and below and have told either a reliable adult, teacher, nurse, doctor, that those statements be allowed to be admitted into court as and is exempted from the hearsay rule. And I'm grateful that this now gives another tool for abused children to get their voices heard by our leaders. And I want to thank Governor Palacios for signing this into law. Thank you, I yield.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Babauta. Any other comments from the members under Governor's Messages? Okay. Moving on to Item D. Recognize Senator Jude Hofschneider. My apologies.

Senator Hofschneider: That's okay. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase*, Madam President. *Buenas dias para todo i yok'hu* colleagues. Primarily everyone that's joining us this morning. I do want to reference the discussion on Governor's Message 23-18 and that is reporting out on the signing of Public Law 22-33. Reference to this law Madam President and members, the significance of this is not only that it finally created a structure for the medical referral for the CNMI, but one of the addition or amendments that the members of the Legislature inserted is with the guidance of the CHCC is the write-off provision for promissory notes that were executed by the agencies over the past few years to our people, our patients that didn't have the means to shoulder the cost of medical care outside the CNMI. And there was a policy that was rendered in perpetuity that the CNMI government can front up at least the latest information was up to \$80,000.00 of general fund for those individuals that don't have the means to pay for this. Fast forward to the last couple of months and into today we've been guided as indicated in the statute itself there was no legal guidance as far as the medical referral being a standalone created by law. And therefore, this particular action by Governor Palacios certifies that and now puts the appropriate structure of such program. But I want to further read out the page eight (8) of the law primarily on Item G, lines 1 to 9, and I read out all outstanding promissory notes executed between the off-island Medical Referral program and patients or their

personal representatives are receivables of the CNMI government and shall not be the responsibility of the Commonwealth Health Corporation. Now withstanding any law to the contrary, the CNMI government shall write off all principle and interest due or no outstanding promissory notes executed by the Off-Island Medical Referral Program, and patients on or before the effective date of this date. The Department of Finance shall issue a notice of the promissory note right off to patients or their personal representative within 180 days of the effective date of this act. So that in itself, Madam President and members gave directions to our people that have been resorted to sign off on promissory, not without actual legal authority by the agency at the time that we gave them a reprieve from further paying this obligation. So, I want to thank Governor Palacios for signing this into law and I want to thank the members of the Legislature and also want to recognize former Chair Representative Tina Sablan for piloting this legislation. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* and I yield back.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Jude Hofschneider. Any other comments from the members under Governor's Messages? None. Moving on to Item E, Communications from the Judiciary. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY

The Senate Clerk voiced Judiciary Comm. Nos. 23-01 to 23-03.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Any comments from the members? There's no comments. Moving on to Item F.

[No comments from the members]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

The Senate Clerk voiced Department Message Nos. 23-01 to 23-02.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Any comments from the members? Anybody? No comments? Item G, Communications from the House.

[No comments from the members]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

The Senate Clerk voiced House Communication Nos. 23-01 to 23-05.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Any comments from the members? Okay. Moving on to Item H, Communications from the Senate.

[No comments from the members]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE

The Senate Clerk voiced Senate Communication Nos. 23-01 to 23-58.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Members, any comments?

[No comments from the members]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE WASHINGTON DELEGATE

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

President DeLeon Guerrero: Members under Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. I would give the opportunity for each author of particular legislation to read out formally your bills, legislations or resolutions or any local bills, and carry on with anything that you have authored. So, let me start with Senator Jude Hofschneider.

Senator Hofschneider: Thank you Madam President formally introducing *Senate Bill 23-01*; To create a CNMI Term Pension Plan; and for other purposes. And if I may Madam Pres, can I just go ahead. Okay, thank you. On Item 9, *Senate Bill 23-06*: To amend 4 CMC § 1503(h) to authorize the respective casino commission of each senatorial district to regulate the maintenance of the poker and pachinko machines; and for other purposes. *Senate Bill No. 23-07*: To establish window tinting regulations in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. *Senate Bill 23-08*: To amend 2 CMC § 3551 to change the expenditure authority, management, and control of the solid waste sub-accounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts to the mayor of each respective municipality; and for other purposes. *Senate Bill 23-09*: To repeal and reenact 1 CMC § 2502 to clarify the rank and file at the Department of Public Safety; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-01: To create a CNMI Term Pension Plan; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-06: To amend 4 CMC § 1503(h) to authorize the respective casino commission of each senatorial district to regulate the maintenance of the poker and pachinko machines; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-07: To establish window tinting regulations in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-08: To amend 2 CMC § 3551 to change the expenditure authority, management, and control of the solid waste sub-accounts for the First and Second Senatorial Districts to the mayor of each respective municipality; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-09: To repeal and reenact 1 CMC § 2502 to clarify the rank and file at the Department of Public Safety; and for other purposes.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Jude Hofschneider. I'll go last. I'll recognize Senator Paul A. Manglona to formally introduce your legislations and carry on with all the others that you have also on the agenda. Thank you.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: *Si Yu'us Ma'ase* President. Just like to formally introduce **Senator Resolution 23-02:** Respectfully requesting the U.S. Department of Treasury to investigate the expenditure of funds of the American Rescue Plan Act allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. **Senate Bill 23-22:** To amend 1 CMC § 8265(a) and (c), and Section 8266, and to add a new Section 8268; and for other purposes. **Senate Bill 23-23:** To establish a Supplemental Home Investment Program at the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority; and for other purposes. **Senate Bill 23-24:** To establish a Supplemental Home Investment Program at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation; and for other purposes. And I'd like to formally introduce also **Senate Bill 23-25:** To authorize the use of the East Harbor Facility on Rota as an alternate port of entry for small cargo vessels; and for other purposes. And I'd like to formally introduce also Senate Local Bill which is not listed there. **Senate Local Bill 23-01:** To amend 10 CMC § 12114 to provide for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission members' compensation. And **Senate Bill No. 23-28:** To amend 4 CMC § 2313(g) to provide for part time compensation for the members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission; and for other purposes. Thank you.

Senate Resolution No. 23-02: Respectfully requesting the U.S. Department of Treasury to investigate the expenditure of funds of the American Rescue Plan Act allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Senate Bill No. 23-22: To amend 1 CMC § 8265(a) and (c), and Section 8266, and to add a new Section 8268; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-23: To establish a Supplemental Home Investment Program at the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-24: To establish a Supplemental Home Investment Program at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-25: To authorize the use of the East Harbor Facility on Rota as an alternate port of entry for small cargo vessels; and for other purposes.

Senate Local Bill No. 23-01: To amend 10 CMC § 12114 to provide for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission members' compensation.

Senate Bill No. 23-28: To amend 4 CMC § 2313(g) to provide for part time compensation for the members of the Commonwealth Casino Commission; and for other purposes.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you Senator Paul. You actually went ahead on the agenda, but I'll go ahead and accept that introduction of two local bills to be listed under your introduction of bills. So, I will now go ahead and recognize Senator Donald Manglona to go ahead please.

Senator Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Madam President. Formally introducing *Senate Bill 23-13*: To strengthen the mandate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Archives at the Northern Marianas College.

Thank you.

Senate Bill No. 23-13: To strengthen the mandate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Archives at the Northern Marianas College.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Donald Manglona. I now recognize Senator Corina Magofna.

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. Formally introducing *Senate Bill No. 23-15*: To amend the Commonwealth's family law statutes to provide for greater clarity in the administration of divorce proceedings and protection orders; and for other purposes. Also introducing *Senate Bill 23-16*: To amend the Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act of 1996 to provide for a flexible response to the economic challenge posed by the COVID-19 health emergency; and for other purposes. Thank you, Madam President.

Senate Bill No. 23-15: To amend the Commonwealth's family law statutes to provide for greater clarity in the administration of divorce proceedings and protection orders; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-16: To amend the Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act of 1996 to provide for a flexible response to the economic challenge posed by the COVID-19 health emergency; and for other purposes.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you Senator Magofna. I would like now to recognize Senator Francisco Cruz.

Senator Cruz: Thank you Madam President. This is to officially introduce *Senate Bill No. 23-17*: To amend the provisions pertaining to village and agricultural homesteads in Rota, Tinian and Saipan, and to specifically prohibit the Department of Public Lands from revoking a village or agricultural homestead permit after it is approved and issued because the applicant met all the requirements, including that the applicant has no interest in land at the time the permit was approved; and for other purposes. Thank you, Madam President.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you, Senator Cruz. And I'll now recognize Senator Celina Babauta.

Senator Babauta: Thank you, Madam President. Formally introducing *Senate Bill 23-26*: To amend the compensation of the Commonwealth Casino Commission members; and other purposes. Thank you.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you Senator Babauta. And now I shall recognize myself, Senator Edith DeLeon Guerrero. Under *Senate Bill No. 23-02*: To amend 4 CMC § 2103 to enhance the Marianas Visitors Authority's promoting capabilities in attracting tourists to visit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Also, *Senate Legislative Initiative No. 23-01*: To propose a constitutional amendment to Article XI, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution. *Senate*

Bill 23-03: To prohibit the purchase of leased vehicles paid by public funds by elected officials, but allow an exemption for a government agency to purchase the leased vehicles strictly for the agency's use. **Senate Bill No. 23-04:** To mandate that public swimming pools be equipped with approved covers. **Senate Bill 23-05:** To transfer the Administration of the CNMI Government's Group Health and Life Insurance from the Department of Finance to the Office of Personnel Management. **Senate Bill 23-10:** To establish guidelines for the CNMI's membership in the Pacific Islands Development Bank; and for other purposes. **Senate Bill No. 23-11:** To amend 1 CMC § 8142 to prohibit moving a civil service employee to a temporary position for political reasons. **Senate Bill No. 23-12:** To waive the repayment requirements of the CNMI Scholarship Memorandum of Agreement/Promissory note. **Senate Bill 23-14:** To provide for quarrying controls and reclamation plans in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes. **Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-01:** Requesting Governor Arnold I. Palacios to re-assess the exempt status of the CNMI in participating in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises pertaining to the Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs. **Senate Bill No. 23-18:** To clarify that Local Legislative Delegations have the power to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; and for other purposes. **Senate Bill 23-19:** To amend 1 CMC § 2803(c) to remove the payment of land compensation judgments by the Department of Public Lands. **Senate Bill No. 23-20:** To prohibit individuals from providing confidential information and to prohibit fiduciaries from acting against the interest of the beneficiaries. **Senate Bill No. 23-21:** To amend 4 CMC § 5611 to restrict the business license renewal unless administrative and court judgment orders are satisfied; and for other purposes. And lastly, **Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-02:** Requesting Governor Arnold I. Palacios to task the Division of Revenue and Taxation to collect all Business Gross Revenue Tax owed the Commonwealth government.

Senate Bill No. 23-02: To amend 4 CMC § 2103 to enhance the Marianas Visitors Authority's promoting capabilities in attracting tourists to visit the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Senate Legislative Initiative No. 23-01: To propose a constitutional amendment to Article XI, Section 6 of the NMI Constitution.

Senate Bill No. 23-03: To prohibit the purchase of leased vehicles paid by public funds by elected officials, but allow an exemption for a government agency to purchase the leased vehicles strictly for the agency's use.

Senate Bill No. 23-04: To mandate that public swimming pools be equipped with approved covers.

Senate Bill No. 23-05: To transfer the Administration of the CNMI Government's Group Health and Life Insurance from the Department of Finance to the Office of Personnel Management.

Senate Bill No. 23-10: To establish guidelines for the CNMI's membership in the Pacific Islands Development Bank; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-11: To amend 1 CMC § 8142 to prohibit moving a civil service employee to a temporary position for political reasons.

Senate Bill No. 23-12: To waive the repayment requirements of the CNMI Scholarship Memorandum of Agreement/Promissory note.

Senate Bill No. 23-14: To provide for quarrying controls and reclamation plans in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-01: Requesting Governor Arnold I. Palacios to re-assess the exempt status of the CNMI in participating in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprises pertaining to the Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs.

Senate Bill No. 23-18: To clarify that Local Legislative Delegations have the power to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum; and for other purposes.

Senate Bill No. 23-19: To amend 1 CMC § 2803(c) to remove the payment of land compensation judgments by the Department of Public Lands.

Senate Bill No. 23-20: To prohibit individuals from providing confidential information and to prohibit fiduciaries from acting against the interest of the beneficiaries.

Senate Bill No. 23-21: To amend 4 CMC § 5611 to restrict the business license renewal unless administrative and court judgment orders are satisfied; and for other purposes.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-02: Requesting Governor Arnold I. Palacios to task the Division of Revenue and Taxation to collect all Business Gross Revenue Tax owed the Commonwealth government.

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL BILLS

[Senator Paul Manglona introduced S.L.B. 23-01 and S.B. 23-28 under Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions]

Senate Bill No. 23-27: To establish a public corporation for planning and to ensure consistency and continuity with sustainable development and smart, safe growth guidelines known as the Planning and Development Authority; to repeal Public Law 20-20, the CNMI Planning and Development Act of 2017; and for other purposes". **[INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EDITH E. DELEON GUERRERO]**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

NONE

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

NONE

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

President DeLeon Guerrero: And now we're on Item O of the agenda Resolution Calendar. I now recognize the Floor Leader to make the appropriate motion for passage of two particular Resolutions on the Resolution Calendar. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. We have resolutions for action on the Resolution Calendar. First one is *Senate Resolution No. 23-02*, introduced by Senator Paul

Manglona; Respectfully requesting the U.S. Department of Treasury to investigate the expenditure of funds of the American Rescue Plan Act allocated to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Members I move for its adoption.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Madam President?

President DeLeon Guerrero: Recognize Senator Paul.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Okay. Maybe I did not clarify my original motion, but I meant to include this also because there I'm working on a legislation. That kind of addresses this concern and rather than passing the resolution and then discussing the bill that we both entertained this in the committee level before we pass that.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Okay, short recess, please.

The Senate recessed at 10:49 a.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

President DeLeon Guerrero: So that is the motion of Senator Paul to refer back Senate Resolution 23-02. And do I hear a second on that?

The motion was seconded.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Any objections from the members? Okay. All those in favor say, "aye". Nays?

Several members voiced, "aye".

President DeLeon Guerrero: Senate Resolution 23-02 is officially going to be referred back to committee. Thank you very much. Floor Leader on Senate Joint Resolution 23-02 for the appropriate motion.

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. *Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-02* introduced by Senator Edith DeLeon Guerrero: Requesting Governor Arnold I. Palacios to task the Division of Revenue and Taxation to collect all Business Gross Revenue Tax owed the Commonwealth government. Members, I move for its adoption.

President DeLeon Guerrero: There is a motion to adopt Senate Joint Resolution No. 23-02. Do I hear a second?

The motion has been seconded.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Discussion? All those in favor to pass Senate Joint Resolution 23-02, please say, “aye”. Nays?

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Senate Joint Resolution 23-02 officially passes the Senate this morning. Thank you, members. Okay, we're moving on to Item P under Bill Calendar. Clerk? Floor Leader, I'm sorry.

BILL CALENDAR
NONE

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madame President. We have none.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you. Floor leader. Item Q, petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Senate Clerk voiced, Miscellaneous Communication Nos. 23-01 to 23-02.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Is there any comments from the members? Moving on to Item R, Announcements? Floor Leader?

ANNOUNCEMENTS
NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Magofna: Madam President, no announcements.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you. And we're down to the last section of the agenda under adjournment. I will recognize the Floor Leader to motion for the adjournment of this session.

Floor Leader Magofna: Thank you, Madam President. I offer a motion to adjourn this session, subject to the call of the President.

President DeLeon Guerrero: Thank you Floor Leader. Do I hear a second?

The motion has been seconded.

President DeLeon Guerrero: All those in favor say, “aye”. Nays? I guess nobody wants to stay.

Several members voiced, “aye”.

President DeLeon Guerrero: This session is officially adjourned. Thank you so much, members.

The Senate session adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chanele C. Borja
Senate Journal Clerk