

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

SECOND REGULAR SESSION – 2025

SJ 24-15

6th Day

Friday, November 14, 2025

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on November 10, 2025 that the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth 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 President of the Senate, Karl R. King-Nabors presided.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Today is Friday, November 14th, 2025. The time is 3:28 PM here at the Tinian Public Library at San Jose, Tinian. Good afternoon, and I hereby call this session to order. It is my honor to welcome everybody to this session today, but before I proceed, I kindly ask everybody to put their mobile devices on silent mode or turn them off. Also, I'd like to welcome everybody viewing on cable television Channel 23, the Senate YouTube page, the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature's Facebook page. And before we proceed any further, I kindly ask that we all stand for a moment of silence.

A moment of silence was observed.

Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Present
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	<i>Esti guiha</i> (Present)
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Here
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Gaige</i> (Here)
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Here
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Absent – Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Present
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Here

CLERK: Mr. President, we have seven (7) members present and two (2) members absent.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With seven members present, we have the requisite number to conduct today's session. Please let the record reflect that Senator Magofna and Senator Babauta are hereby excused from today's session. Before proceeding any further, I would like to recognize our hardworking LB staff assisting us with our session today. Our Senate Clerk, Mrs. Dolores Bermudes, our Senate Journal Clerk, Mrs. Valerie Aguon, our Legal Counsel, Mr. Joe Bermudes, our Fiscal Analyst, Mr. Dave Demapan, our IT assistant, Mr. Delbert Camacho, our Senior Legislative Assistant, Mrs. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel and our Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Jonathan Deleon Guerrero. And with that I would like to recognize our Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. At this I move to suspend pertinent rules to place House Bill No. 24-68 on today's bill calendar for action.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay, there's been a motion made to place House Bill No. 24-68 on today's calendar for action and has been seconded. Discussions? There being none, I'd like to kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	Yes
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Absent – Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voting yes.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all seven members voting yes, House Bill No. 24-68 is hereby placed on today's bill calendar. Moving on to the Public Comment. This is a section of our agenda where we allow the public to provide any comments they wish to make pertaining to any piece of any piece of items on our agenda, the floor is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jean Paul B. Reyes: Good afternoon, *buenas yan hãfa adai*, Honorable Senate President Karl King-Nabors and Honorable Senate members of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. For the record, my name is Jean Paul B. Reyes, Special Assistant for the Administration, under the Office of the Governor. On behalf of the Honorable Governor David M. Apatang and the Honorable Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. Mr. President, I am honored to extend the Administration's appreciation and express our gratitude to this esteemed body and to your committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee chaired by the Honorable Senator, Mr. Francisco Q. Cruz for the time and effort you've all put into reviewing and examining the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's nominee. This afternoon you'll be entertaining Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-27, the appointment of Ms. Janice A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regent representing the Private Sector. And although she's not present, I hope that you can excuse her absence. Your relentless time and effort to entertain her appointment is an essential step forward as the Administration finalizes the vacancies for all boards and commission. Once again, Honorable Senate President King-Nabors and Honorable Members of this esteemed Senate body, Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola extends their sincere appreciation for your generous and favorable consideration on behalf of our nominee. Mr. President, thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase yan ghillisow*.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mr. Reyes. The floor is still open for public comments. If there are none, I'll go ahead and move on to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of the Journal. I recognize the Floor Leader.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to adopt Senate Journal no. 24-12, 3rd Day, Second Regular Session dated September 15th, 2025.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-12 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? All in favor say aye.

All members voiced "Aye".

All opposed? Senate Journal No. 24-12 is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, at this time, I move to adopt Senate Journal No. 24-13, 5th Day, Second Regular Session dated October 3, 2025.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. The Floor leader has offered a motion for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-13, and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Members are ready. All in favor say aye.

All members voiced "Aye".

All opposed? Senate Journal No. 24-13 is here by adopted. Moving on to Message from the Governor. I recognize a Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 38 on our agenda, 24-124 to 161.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion from the members. Ready? There being none, we'll move on to Item E, Communication from the Judiciary, there is none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY NONE

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Item F, Communications from Heads of Executive Departments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS

Clerk: Mr. President, we only have two, 24-14 and 15.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussions from the members. Ready?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Moving on to Item G, Communications from the House.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 13 on our agenda, 24-84 to 96.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. I'd like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to place House Bill No. 24-68, HD1 on today's Bill Calendar.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion to place House Bill No. 24-68 on today's Bill Calendar for action, and has been seconded. Under discussion, I would like to say, for myself, that this is an important piece of legislation that all members, MPLT, the Executive Branch, the House to include the Senate, has been working on diligently to try to move forward. This is an effort to address a very pressing need for our community. So, I ask the support from the members for this vote and to place it on Calendar. With that being said Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Absent – Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voting yes.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all seven members voting yes, House Bill No. 24-68, HD1 is hereby placed on today's Bill Calendar. I will be making a note on House Communications No. 24-92 regarding House Bill No. 24-70, as well as House Communication No. 24-93, which is House Bill No. 24-74, that they will immediately be referred to the Committee on Fiscal Affairs. Any other comments by the members under Communications from the House? Ready?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Item H, Communications from the Senate. Clerk.

Clerk: Mr. President. We have 24, that's 140 to 156 and there's a mis-numbering on page seven. It should be after eight, will be 9 then 10. I apologize for that.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Understood. The floor is open for discussions from the members. Ready?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Onto Item I, Communications from the CNMI Delegate, there is none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE
NONE

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Item J, Unfinished Business, there are none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
NONE

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives and Resolutions. Clerk.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:39 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:43 p.m.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Today's session under Item K, Pre-filled Bills, Initiatives, Local bills and Resolutions, I'll go ahead and recognize Senator Hofschneider for the introduction of his Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si yu'us ma'ase* Mr. President. Formerly introducing Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04 and that is, "To recognize and honor of the Late Noboru Hirayama for his unwavering dedication and contribution to strengthening the bond between the people of Saipan and Japan on the occasion of the 111th year anniversary of the establishment of the Saipan Katori Shrine."

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. I'd now like to introduce Senate Resolution No. 24-11, "To honor the distinguished service of Chief Warrant Officer Four Rosannie Castro McGee upon her retirement from the United States Army, and to commend her exemplary leadership, unwavering and outstanding contributions to the defense of our nation." Also, I would like to introduce Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-03, "To honor and commend Willie Tan for his visionary leadership, astute business acumen, philanthropic contributions, charitable character and lasting impact on the economic landscape and social fabric of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands." Lastly, I would like to introduce Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-05, "To recognize and commend the Northern Marianas Football Association for its steadfast contributions to the sports community of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on occasion of the association's 20th year anniversary." On to item L, Introductions of Bills, Initiatives, and Local Bills and Resolutions that didn't make the agenda. Any members?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

NONE

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Being none, we'll move on to Item M, Reports of Standing Committees. I recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this we have Senate Committee Report No. 24-27 from the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations reporting on the Executive Appointment of Ms. Janice A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College (NMC) Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-27 and has been seconded. The floor is open for discussion. I now recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President and members of the Senate, your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations is ready to present a Standing Committee Report No. 24-27. This is the Executive Appointment of Janice A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College (NMC) Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. Your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector begs leave to report as follow. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio's executive appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Interim Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the appointment of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. Your Committee has examined all pertinent and documents relating to the executive appointment of Ms. Tenorio's overall credential to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are nine oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which six hard copies of the testimonies were submitted during the hearing, six written testimonies in support of the Appointee; and no written or oral testimonies in opposition of the Appointee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concern to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Ms. Tenorio's credential, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your

Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. The public hearing was conducted on October 2, 2025 in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues, and concern were raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents (NMC BOR). And in conclusion, all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Interim Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the executive appointment of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector is in accordance with 3 CMC § 1311. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Ms. Janice Marie A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Colleges Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. Again, I ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-27. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other discussion? Any other comments? Ready?

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Ready.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With that, I would like to please ask the Clerk to call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Absent – Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members voting yes.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all seven members voting yes, Standing Committee Report No. 24-27 is hereby adopted, which appoints Ms. Janice A. Tenorio to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector. Moving on to Item N, Reports of Special and Conference Committees there are none.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

NONE

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Resolution Calendar, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. We have, of the four, there are three that we'll be acting on today. At this I move for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-03 "To honor and commend Willie Tan for his visionary leadership, astute business acumen, philanthropic contributions, charitable character and lasting impact on the economic landscape and social fabric of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Do I hear a second?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-03 and has been seconded. Discussion? There being none, all in favor of say aye.

All members voiced "aye".

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: All opposed? Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-03 is hereby adopted by this body. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04, "To recognize and honor of the Late Noboru Hirayama for his unwavering dedication and contribution to strengthening the bond between the people of Saipan and Japan on the occasion of the 111th year anniversary of the establishment of the Saipan Katori Shrine." I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion and has been seconded for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04. Discussion?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Mr. President.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: I recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Just to inform the members and you Mr. President, that have had the privilege to formally present that very resolution, along with our good colleague from Saipan, Senator Manny Castro, to the son of the gentleman that we're honoring for their brotherhood and our relationship all through the years and forth. We're continuing to be a part of the Saipan

community or the CNMI community with regards to our long-standing relationship to Japan. Thank you.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any other members? There being none, we'll move forward. Floor Leader. Oh, I'm sorry. All in favor of the passage of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04 say aye.

All members voiced "aye".

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: All opposed? Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-04 is hereby adopted by this body. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-05, "To recognize and commend the Northern Marianas Football Association for its steadfast contributions to the sports community of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on occasion of the association's 20th year anniversary." I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion and has been seconded for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-05. Discussion? Ready?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Alright, all in favor for the adoption say aye.

All members voiced "aye".

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: All opposed? The Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-05 is hereby adopted by this body. Next on the item of the agenda is Item P, Bill Calendar. I recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have one House Bill No. 24-68, HD1, "To conditionally authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust to establish a margin account solely to facilitate the \$29,000,000 loan authorized under Public Law 24-13, subject to the continuing fiduciary and constitutional duties of the Trustees." I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the passage of House Bill No. 24-68 in the form of HD1 and has been seconded. Discussion from the members? Everyone's ready? Okay, may I kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	Absent – Excused
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Yes
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Absent – Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

CLERK: Mr. President, six (6) members voting yes and three (3) absent.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: With six members voting yes, House Bill No. 24-68, HD1 hereby passes the Senate. Onto Item Q, Petition, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications. I recognize the Clerk.

Clerk: Mr. The President, we have six on our agenda, 24-50 to 56.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any discussion for members? Being none, we'll move on to Announcements. I recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to inform the public and also especially the Fiscal Affairs Committee and LB staff, that we will be having a Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at the Senate Chamber in Saipan, which we're going to be discussing critical legislations that is before the Senate. So, I just wanted to inform the members. Thank you.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any other members? There being none, onto Item S, Adjournment. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adjournment of today's session, subject to your call.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion and a second to adjourn today's session subject to my call. All in favor say aye.

All members voiced "aye".

Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors: All opposed? Today's Senate session is here by adjourn. The time is 3:56 p.m. Thank you all. Good afternoon.

The Senate session adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Aguon', is written over a horizontal line.

Valerie S. Aguon
Senate Journal Clerk