

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



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7th Day

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In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on November 14, 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](http://www.cnmileg.net)

*The Honorable President of the Senate, Karl R. King-Nabors presided.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Good afternoon everyone. I hereby call this sixth day, I'm sorry, Seventh Day, Second Regular session to order. Today is November 17, 2025. The time is 3:05 p.m. in the afternoon here in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Before we proceed, I kindly ask everybody to put their mobile devices on silent, or please turn them off. Today's session can be viewed on cable television Channel 23, the Senate's YouTube page, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. Now I'd like kindly like to ask everyone to stand for moment of silence.

*A moment of silence was observed.*

Now, 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	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 necessary quorum to conduct today's session. Please let the record reflect that Senators Babauta and Magofna are hereby excused from today's session. Before proceeding any further, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the LB staff that is supporting us with our session here today. In front of me is our Legal Counsel Mr. Jose Bermudes, our Senate Clerk for today is Mrs. Valerie Aguon, doing the photo and media is Mr. LJ Castro, our Sergeant-At-Arms is Mr. Benjamin Terlaje and our IT Manager, Mr. Jonathan Diaz. Also, in the gallery is our Legislative Assistant Mrs. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel. Okay, moving on to Item B of our agenda, Public Comments. This is the opportunity for our public to provide comments on any of the agenda items today. The public comments is now open. Please keep your comments about five minutes and also identify if you're speaking on behalf of yourself or the agency that you're speaking on behalf of. Public Comments are now open.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Joan Aquino:** Good afternoon, *buenas* and *håfa adai*, Senate President Karl King-Nabors and the Honorable Senate members of the 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. For the record, my name is Joan Aquino, Special Projects Coordinator under the Office of the Governor. On behalf of the Honorable Governor David M. Apatang and Honorable Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola, I thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am here to express the Administration's appreciation and gratitude to the Senate President, Chairman Francisco Q. Cruz, and the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations for your time and effort you've all put into reviewing and examining the Governor's nominees, Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, to serve on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona, to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, Mr. Anthony C. Torres and Mr. Noel Calvo to serve on the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors. Your relentless efforts to entertain the Governor's nominees is an essential to step forward as the Administration finalizes the vacancies for all boards and commissions. Once again, Senate President and members of the esteemed Senate body, Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola, extend their sincere appreciation for your understanding and favorable consideration of our nominees today. Thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase*, and *ghilisow*.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Mrs. Aquino. Public Comment is still open. And while I'm here, I'd like to thank the presence of our good Representative, Mr. Danny Aquino.

**Representative Daniel Aquino:** Thank you Senate President and members of the Senate. My name is Representative Danny Aquino from Election District Two. I'm here for two things. First, I want to thank the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee and also, it's Chairman Jude Hofschneider, for entertaining my bill, the House Bill No. 24-54, the Military Leave Act. This Military Leave Act is very crucial and beneficial for the CNMI because not only does it entitles our members to serve freely, it also serves as an economic boost for our economy. Because as each member goes off island, they earn good money, and that money's being remitted back to Saipan for their families.

So, I kindly ask for your support in the passage of that crucial bill, please. I've learned my lesson. I've learned to behave. And two, as I told the Senate President, I shut my mouth. And another thing is that my wife is here, so I have to be in good behavior. Second, I'm here to support the Governor's nominees for each respective board. I personally want to talk about Bill Manglona. Eusebio Manglona and also *si* Torres, Commissioner Torres, when I was the Special Assistant for Military Affairs, they really put their hearts out in support for the people of the CNMI not only Saipan, but this was for all three islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This medical mission was very crucial. It was a very successful mission, and we need to have more of this. With Bill, I got a chance to work with him, and let me tell you, he was the only guy that was sent to Rota. So, he put everything on his back for Rota. He worked with the Mayor. He coordinated all those things and everything that was transported through a boat, especially this last military mission, everything that could go wrong went wrong. But Bill was the guy that was dependable, reliable, and I really believe in him to serve in the CPA board. And I think he would be a tremendous asset for the Administration and for the CNMI, and especially for the people of Rota. Because he was non-stop every day, unloading those 500-pound bins, he coordinated everything by himself. And with Commissioner Torres, he made sure that we have vehicles and everything for the military members. He sacrificed vehicles and everything. And unfortunately, the military was unable to service his requests but we hope in the future that they will be able. But my hats off to every one of them for taking the step up and to serve the CNMI in their own capacity as respective board members for every different agency. That's it. Thank you. I yield.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you so much for your comments, Representative Aquino. Public comments are still open. If there are none, I will go ahead and close Public Comments at this time. Being that we have nothing on the agenda items for Item C through G, I'll go ahead and recognize the Clerk for agenda Item H.

**Clerk:** Mr. President, we have five items, numbers 24-157 to 24-161.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** And me members. Open for discussion. Any members? Ready? Ready. Okay. There's nothing under Communications from the U.S. Delegate, Unfinished Business, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Under Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions, I'd like to recognize Senator Hofschneider.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. Formerly introducing jointly, with the three members of the Tinian Senate, to Senate Local Bill No. 24-03, "To amend 10 CMC § 2521(g) to provide for the suspension of Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission members' compensation; and for other purposes." Thank you.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any other members have any bills or resolutions to introduce that didn't make the agenda? If there are none, we'll go ahead and move forward to Item M, Reports of Standing Committees. If there are no objections from the members, I would like to go directly to number five on the Standing Committee Reports.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** No objection.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Okay. And with that I recognize the Clerk, or I'm sorry, Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-34 from the Fiscal Affairs Committee reporting on House Bill No. 24-54, "To increase the number of military leave hours available to CMMI government employees and to broaden eligibility for its use." The committee recommends its passage in its current form and 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. 24-34 for House Bill No. 24-54, and has been seconded. Under discussions?

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Ready.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** All in favor of say aye.

*All members voiced "aye".*

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-34 is hereby adopted. Before proceeding any further, I'd like to take a short recess.

*The Senate recessed at 3:16 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The Senate reconvened at 3:21 p.m.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** We now rise back and I recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-36 from the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee reporting on Executive Appointment of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors representing the First Senatorial District. 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. 24-36 and has been seconded. Under discussions. But before we do that, can I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to invite the appointee in? I now like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 24-36, and this is the Executive Appointment of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors representing the First Senatorial District. Your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District, begs leave to report as follow. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona's executive appointment to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. 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 Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. Your committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Manglona's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Post Authority Board of Directors. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 14 oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which 3 hard copies of the testimony stated was submitted during the hearing, 12 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 concerns to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Mr. Manglona's credential, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. The public hearing was conducted on November 6, 2025 in the Rota Mayor's Conference Hall, Office of Mayor of Rota, Tatachog, Rota. And during the hearing, certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirmed as member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. 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 Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District, is in accordance with 2 CMC § 2123. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. Again, I humbly ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-36. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other members have any comments during discussion? I recognized the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President, I just want to add on, aside from what the Chair had mentioned, Mr. Manglona, before we head into the vote, I do want to further emphasize the need to bring any hearings to Rota that pertains to any of the military activities that may be happening. I know there are discussions taking place in regards to the lease agreements on Rota, and so I hope that you, like what you mentioned in your hearing, you'll bring that back to the people of Rota. Additionally, I just wanted to invite you to the Rota Leadership meeting that will be taking place tomorrow where we'll also hear from the Executive Director and maybe you can also engage in that conversation there. And so, with that I wish you the best and I'm ready for the vote. Mr. President, thank you.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Floor leader. I recognize Senator Manglona.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you Mr. President. I don't have a question, but I just want to make an emphasis on a critical need for Rota CPA, as I am not a member of the EAGI committee, so I want to take this opportunity. *Hu tungo' ha si Bill ya hu supopotta si* Mr. Bill Manglona, *pa* CPA, Mr. President and Members. *Lao malago' yu na bai u faisen ya hu chagi mânu-nu na siña-na para ta na guaha crane giya Luta. I crane na mas dânkolo na problema giya Luta* over the years. *Ya enigi na gaige' todû tiempo i eskusu anai gaige eyi i agas na stevedoring company. Pudi guaguan i crane ya nu esta pago' na momento, taya crane gi bantalan. Ya eningoku na guaha nuebu na stevedoring company. Lao giya guahu ya gi para guaha i stevedoring company nei, pues maila ya ta ayuda ya hu guaha salâpe'-ñiha i gobetnamiento, ya giya i gobetnamiento na ha guaha ennao na crane. Sa nu mentras ha taya crane, siempre i business yan i taotao-ta gi uttimu nu pa madesi ennao na guaguan fektos yan i unu dudu na mampos ha guaguan i fektos Luta ya, ginen i stevedoring esti ya eyu ha agas-ha hu chonnek na hu na ma para eyi stevedoring Luta gi mapos na sakkan, yan antes di ennao. Sa enigi pumupuno' i taotao Luta. Kao bula, pat ti bula, kao guaha batko, pat taya batko, nu gu na mâlom katga gi ma charge ha nu minimum amount without regards to i cost para i taotao nei. Pues, gi last year, ilek-ña siha kulan guaha salâpe' para i crane, lao pues pago' kulan taya en ta hunggok nei. Pues pa baihu faisen kao hafa eyi, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation? Estaba ilek-ña, para ma ayuda i CPA ya pa ba na'e crane. Then all of a sudden tumaya' ta'lo news put ennao. Ya muna gagas-ha tiempo bai hu sanggan siha anai puputi eyu si sa guaha un kompania, guaha i yona dânkolo na excavator pun hanao pat Luta, esta kana los membisis ti siña ta disisi tai manao pun hâlom Luta. Sa hunggan, ma sangani na guaha crane lao ilek-ña ti ma insururance i crane, ti ma a certified i crane. Tai manu i CPA, na pun hâlom eyi ya para ma nasetbi i bantalan-ta gi para fan operate ya taya insurance, taya certification, yan guaha aksidente hayi pinalopu ennao? Siempre CPA yan i taotao nai, i kompania na'e u nasetbi ennao nu siempre dânkolo dinudâña nei. Pues ti hu tunggok hafa taimanu man answer lao, yanggen man malagu hit pata na guaha dilantu kono niha, enigi debi di uma satba i crane ya kada guaha ta faisen nei, kulan guaha dilantu pues tumâya pues ti hu tungo ya enigi bai hu faisen ennao Mr. Manglona. Ya pot fabot na tat kilo ennao i crane na problema yan esti i stevedoring. Ti nahung business Luta, pues debi di i contract lease agreement, uma satmina gi dinanchi na manera yanggen mâtto guenao na punto nei, na konseki ta na seguru na beneficial para i taotao-ta. Bai hu bira hao para i airport. I airport ta'lo esta kuantu anos na disdi typhoon, hafa eyi na typhoon, antes di Yutu, taigige' i yo-ta airport. Ta'lo man ma sangâni hit, a year and a*

half ago *mas na esta guaha salâpe*. *Yan hunggan*, granted *guaha pago* 'problema sa guaha protest ya guaha siha, lao agas gi maigu esti gi lamasa ya nu bonitu mohom yanggen esta munayan ta irekla i yo-ta terminal building. *Pues pa bien fan ali'e agupa nai delegations yan si Executive Director Ester, one o'clock guini ya gi guaha tiempo-mu* Mr. Manglona, I'll appreciate *kao siña gumaige hao gi ennao ya ta ekungok mas hafa muna dilakuekuenti i projects siha. Ya koseki ta alulâyi i project i airport. Pues, taya ennao ha for now, nu listo esta nu man bota ginen na committee report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman yan members na'e tiempo miyu.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Manglona. Any other members? I recognize Senator Calvo.

**Senator Ronnie M. Calvo:** Thank you, Senate President. I would like to thank Mr. Eusebio Manglona for stepping to the plate in regards to the nomination. I'm pretty sure you are aware of the challenges we face in Rota, our municipality level. And one of the things I wanted to share, which you know Congressman Aquino mentioned, that relationship with Department of Defense and the military and moving forward in alternative revenue streams so we ensure that the seaport and the airport have their financial backing and we don't need to subsidize, in that respect. And I know we do have, Senator Paul mentioned, about the crane. They did procure an updated crane and stevedore ship is just to establish stevedore ship. When I did my research, it's not just like anybody can come in, you need the financial backing, the bonding and what it takes. So, we're hoping with the CPA representative, the relationship that you have with the membership, that we can build a stronger foundation and critically how they stated, we need the board to start moving and tackling some of these issues. So, I commend you for stepping to the plate with the other members. And what a wonderful inter-island ribbon cutting today to ensure that we are looking forward to, out of certain circumstances, looking forward to bringing in invites and revenue to help the inter-island commuters as well as the exposure through Guam and international flights. So, I commend you and look forward to the team tackling some of these critical issues for our municipalities, Tinian, Rota, and then the state of Saipan. Thank you.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Calvo. Any other members? Ready? With that, I will kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll on the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-36.

## 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, seven (7) members present voting yes.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With seven members voting yes, the Standing Committee Report No. 24-36 is hereby adopted confirming Mr. Eusebio M. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. With that, I now recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you Mr. President. We have a Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-37 from the Executive Appointment and Government Investigations Committee reporting on executive appointment of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority representing the Public 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. 24-37 and has been seconded. Before we begin with the discussion, I kindly ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Commissioner Torres into the Chamber. Good afternoon again, Mr. Torres. So we're now open for discussion. I would like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. Again Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 24-37 and this is the executive appointment of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector, begs leave to report as follows. After review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Anthony C. Torres' executive appointment to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public 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 Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector. Your Committee has examined pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Torres' overall credentials to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors. In summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 2 oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which 1 hard copy of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing, no additional 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 concerns to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Mr. Torres' credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector. The public hearing was conducted on November 13, 2025 here in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues, and concerns were raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Executive Authority Board of the Directors. 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. And based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the executive appointment of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector is in accordance with 4 CMC § 51122. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the Public Sector. Again, I ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-37. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. Under discussion. Any other members? I recognize Senator Castro.

**Senator Manny G.T. Castro:** Thank you, Chairman and Mr. President. I just wanted to thank Mr. Torres, Commissioner Torres, for his continued service to our community. I'd like to thank him for the work that he's done at the Department of Corrections and also looking to help further grow the CNMI, its economy and removing, his work as well as the other appointees, to eliminate a lot of the barriers to entry. It's a very critical time and I'm very happy that he decided to take this opportunity. Also thank you to the Administration for appointing Mr. Torres who has, in this short time as a cabinet member, has proven he actually set the bar on what good government service should be. Thank you again, Mr. Torres. Chair, I yield.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Castro. The floor is still open for discussion. Ready? With that, I'd kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll on the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-37.

### 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 members voting yes, Standing Committee Report No. 24-37 is hereby adopted and confirms Mr. Anthony C. Torres to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority representing the Public Sector. Congratulations. I recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. Before we adopt the Standing Committee Report, at this time I move to include an addendum to the committee report.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Second.

*This motion has been seconded.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** There has been a motion made to include an addendum to Standing Committee Report No. 24-38, and it has been seconded. Under discussion. Ready?

**Senator Manny G.T. Castro:** Ready.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** All in favor say aye.

*All members voiced "aye".*

All opposed? The addendum is hereby adopted. I recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** With that Mr. President, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-38 from the Executive Appointment and Government Investigations Committee reporting on Executive appointment of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Second.

*This motion has been seconded.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** There has been a motion made for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-38 and has been seconded. Before we do the discussion, may I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms kindly escort the Appointee to this chamber. Good afternoon. Under discussion, I would like to recognize Chairman of the EAGI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you Mr. President. I ask the members to bear with me because this is too thick of a report, the original and the addendum.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Understood Chairman.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you again, Mr. President. Your Committee is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 24-38 and this is the executive appointment of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. Your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector begs to leave to report as follows. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane's executive appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and 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. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Ms. Tomokane's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors. And in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are 10 oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which 3 hard copies of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing, 7 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 concerns to the Appointee. However, in the interest of time, this portion of report will be attached as an addendum prior to the Senate's action on the nomination of the Appointee. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Ms. Tomokane's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. The public hearing was conducted on November 13, 2025 in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Saipan. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors. Again, in the interest of time, this portion of report will be attached as an addendum to the report prior to the Senate's action on the nomination of the Appointee. Mr. President, your Committee respectfully submits the addendum to the original report for reference and record purposes. This addendum pertains specifically to Section II, Analysis D. Public Hearing and Comments of Standing Committee Report No. 24-38, and provide additional information, context relevant to the appointment of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. In conclusion, all required documents and 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. Merced M.

Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector is in accordance with 2 CMC § 4421. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Ms. Merced M. Tomokane to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. Again, I ask his body to kindly support Standing Committee Report No. 24-38. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you. Senator Cruz. Any other members on discussion? I recognize Senator Manglona.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm just reading this addendum report today, so please bear with me. And I really like what I'm reading because, in one of the hearings which I attended, even though I wasn't a member of the EAGI, I did ask or raise concern regarding the LIYO Housing, which is the Bayview Housing owned by NMHC down on Rota and I'm reading just now that, there is the availability of a Federal Home Loan Bank financing, to improve the homes there on Rota. I think we cannot ask questions to the nominee, but I'm going to ask that Chairman or members of the committee who can maybe explain a little bit about this program. Is this to finance the renovation of the 30 some homes there, under the same program? Or are they going to be given out to qualified individual, future homeowners? Can somebody explain this part of this committee report?

*The Senate recessed at 3:51 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The Senate reconvened at 3:53 p.m.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** We now rise back. Senator Paul, you still have the floor.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. During recess we had a little clarification from the nominee herself and my understanding is that NMHC continues to work hard to make this Federal Home Loan Bank financing available for the Bayview Homes and we continue to pray for the success and the improvement of those housing for the low income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm ready.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Manglona. Any other members? Ready? I kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll on the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-38.

### ROLL CALL

**CLERK** called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta  
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo

Absent – Excused  
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 present voting yes.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With all members present voting yes, Standing Committee Report No. 24-38 is hereby adopted, officially confirming Ms. Merced M. Tomokane serve on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors representing the Third Senatorial District. Congratulations. I would now like to take a short recess.

*The Senate recessed at 3:55 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The Senate reconvened at 4:00 p.m.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** We now race back to session. I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. And the last committee report that we'll be entertaining today is Standing Committee Report No. 24-35 from the Executive Appointment and Government Investigations Committee reporting on the Executive appointment on Mr. Noel Calvo to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority, representing the First Senatorial District.

**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. 24-35 and has been seconded. Under discussion, I would now like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, this is the last committee report from your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations, and this is the executive appointment of Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. Your Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District begs leave to

report as follows. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Noel M. Calvo's executive appointment to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. 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 Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. Your Committee as examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Mr. Calvo's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Incentive Authority Board of Director, and in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the committee, there were 14 oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which 2 hard copies of the testimonies were submitted during the hearing, 7 written testimonies in support of the Appointee and; no written or oral testimonies and opposition of the Appointee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Mr. Calvo's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. The public hearing was conducted on November 6, 2025 in the Rota Mayor's Conference Room, Office of the Mayor of Rota, Tatachog, Rota. And during the hearing, certain recommendations, issues, and concerns were raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority. 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. And based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the executive appointment on Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District is in accordance with 4 CMC § 51122. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Noel M. Calvo to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors, representing the First Senatorial District. Again, I humbly ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-35. Thank you, Mr. President.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Cruz. Any other members under discussion? If there are none, I'd like to kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll on the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-35.

### 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 present voting yes.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With all members present voting yes, Standing Committee Report No. 24-35 is hereby adopted by this body, and confirms Mr. Noel Calvo to serve as a member of the Board or Directors of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority, representing the First Senatorial District. Moving on down the agenda, if it's okay with the other members and if there are no objections, I would like to move past and leave on calendar, everything on the Resolution Calendar and go directly to Item P on the agenda, the Bill Calendar.

### BILL CALENDAR

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** No objection.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With that, I'll recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. We have House Bill No. 24-54, "To increase the number of military leave hours available to CNMI government employees and to broaden eligibility for its use." 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. 24-54 and has been seconded. Under discussions. Ready? I would just like to take a little bit of time and say thank you to the author for this. I believe all of us in the Senate are always in support of bills like this, that really address and allows us to give back to the men and women that serve our great nation and our commonwealth. With that, 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	<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 present voting yes.

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With all seven members voting yes, House Bill No. 24-54 is hereby passed by the Senate. If there are no objections, I would like to leave all the remaining items on the agenda for the following session to be addressed and move on to Item R, Announcements for any members. None? I now recognize the Floor Leader.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to adjourn this session subject to the call of the Chair.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Second.

*This motion has been seconded.*

**Senate President Karl R. King-Nabors:** There's been a motion to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair and has been seconded. All in favor say aye.

*All members present voiced "aye".*

All opposed? The Senate session is now adjourned. The time is 4:07 p.m. Good afternoon everyone.

**The Senate session adjourned at 4:07 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie S. Aguon  
Senate Journal Clerk