

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

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SJ 24-14

4th Day

Friday, September 26, 2025

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on September 23, 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.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Good evening everyone. I hereby call this Fourth day, Second Regular Session to order. Today is September 26th. The time is 6:16 p.m. here in the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill. It is my honor to welcome everybody here today watching online to this session. I asked respectfully that any devices, cell phones be put on mute or turned off at this time to minimize interruptions. And with that, I want to acknowledge that today's session's being streamed live on cable television, Channel 23, Senate's YouTube page, and on the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. And with that, I ask humbly that we please rise for a moment in silence.

*A moment of silent prayer was observed.*

Ms. Kaipat, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent – Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Here
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	Present
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Present

Senator Paul A. Manglona

Here

**CLERK:** Mr. President, we have eight (8) members present and one (1) member absent.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With eight members present we have the requisite number to proceed with today's Senate hearing. Please let the record reflect that Senator Babauta is hereby excused from today's session. Moving on, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our LB staff that is assisting us with this session today. In the back there is our Fiscal Analyst, Dave Demapan, our Sergeant-At-Arms, Sergeant Benjamin Terlaje, also our Youth Congress Coordinator, and who's also dealing with our social media, Mr. Luis John Castro, our Legal Counsel is Mr. Joe Bermudes, our Senate Clerk today is Ms. Joan Kaipat and our Senior IT is Mr. Jonathan Diaz. Also, in the back is Mrs. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel and Devin Macaranas, who are our LA's for today. As we move forward down the agenda, we go to Item B, public comments. This is a portion of our agenda where we allow anyone from the public to come up and provide any comments that relate to any agenda items on today's agenda. Please state your name and the entity that you represent, or if you don't represent, but the floor is now open.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

**Sonya Camacho:** Good evening, Mr. President and honorable members of the Senate. I am Sonya Camacho. I am the Director of courts, and I am here on behalf of Chief Justice Alexander Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and members of our bench. We are here to assist with any questions you may have regarding the judiciary and the impact of the proposal before you on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget. I'm present with our General Counsel, Huon Jay Lee, and our Budget and Finance Officer, John Villagomez. Thank you.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you. Before we proceed any further, I also want to recognize our Lieutenant Governor here in the gallery, Lieutenant Governor Dennis Mendiola. Thank you for being present today for this very interesting budget cycle to say the least. With that, the public comment is still open. There being none, I hereby close public comments and if there are no objections from the members, there are no communications from agenda Item C through O. So, I would like to go directly to the Bill Calendar agenda Item P, no objections?

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

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** At this point, I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. We have House Bill 24-46, HD1 "To Define and Identify General Revenues and approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the CNMI Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2026 and make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2026; and for other purposes." I move for its passage.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz:** Second.

*This motion has been seconded.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** There has been a motion for the passage of House Bill 24-46, House Draft 1 and has been seconded. Discussions? I recognize the Chairman of Fiscal Affairs.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** *Si yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President and good evening to everyone. I wish to offer an amendment to House Bill 24 46, HD1.

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

**Senator Corina L. Magofna:** Second.

*This motion has been seconded.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Okay. Discussions. I recognize Chairman Hofschneider.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you Mr. President. Under discussion, I wish to, on the outset, inform the members and yourself, Mr. President and the viewing public and the ones that are joining us this evening that we are entertaining a legislation of a budget ceiling of \$179,701,969.00. Of which your committee made some substantive amendment primarily on the clarifying provisions on several sections of the budget bill. And if there are no objection from the members, I wish to read out some of those provisions that I think the general public, the entities, that need to be aware what the Senate had engaged with the last few weeks or few days that we worked on the budget appropriation.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** If I may Chair, there are no objections, but I also want to, because by rule we have five minutes per member, but I just want to let you know that we will yield as much time from any members so that you can articulate the differences in what has been changed from the House. So, by all means, proceed.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. And primarily on page 21, under Section 403: Donation of Sick Leave, the bill calls for and I'll just read it out and "Notwithstanding any laws to the contrary, when an employee donates sick leave, each hour of donated sick leave shall be counted as 1.0 hours regardless of the hourly rate that was earned by the donor or recipient. Provided that the donated sick leave shall not exceed 1040 hours." And under Chapter 5 on page 22, starting on line 9, the Reprogramming Authority. This legislation allows the Governor up to 25% reprogramming authority and equally and similar to the reprogramming authority of the Governor on page 23, line 7, the Mayors of the respective municipalities are given the same reprogramming authority of 25%. Moving on to page 27, line 4 on Section 610: DPS Rota and DPS Tinian in reference to the detainees of the two municipalities, "The Department of Corrections shall be responsible for all costs and expenses associated with the transportation of all detainees and inmates between the senatorial district for all court appearances and other legally mandated activities." And line 8 on the same page, Section 611: OGM Funds in Excess of Office of Grants Management Budget. "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary if the OGM receives in excess of

\$937,843 that is allotted to OGM as provided under 1 CMC § 2893(a), the excess shall be reserved for the Group Health Life Insurance (GHLI) and the CNMI's government's obligation to their retirees' 25% pension payment." Staying on the same page, on line 13 under Section 612: Hazardous Pay, "The Solid Waste Management shall pay the amount of a \$179,691 of hazardous pay owed to Saipan, Tinian and Rota employees from the Solid Waste Management Revolving Fund collected under Title 2 Section 3551. The obligation shall be prioritized and fully satisfied before any other funds are expended for other programs. With respect to the payment of hazardous pay, there shall be a written report submitted by the Secretary of Finance and the Department of Public Works to the Presiding Officers by the end of quarter of Fiscal Year 2026." On page 28, line 7, Section 614: MVA Trust Funds, "Notwithstanding 4 CMC § 2159, the Secretary of Finance shall transfer the monthly share of the Hotel Occupancy Tax to the respective mayors. Additionally, the Secretary shall account the transfers and ensure that the respective mayors receive not less than \$175,000 before the end of the fiscal year." Line 12, "The fund shall be remitted on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$43,750." And on line 14, item C, "Each mayor must submit a quarterly report within 30 days after the end of each quarter" Line 16, staying on the same page, Section 615: Commonwealth Casino Members, "Notwithstanding 4 CMC §§ 2308 and 2309 or any CNMI law to the contrary, the Secretary of Finance shall reserve \$210,000 from the \$2.7 million received from the IPI Settlement Agreement, as these special revenue funds have a clear nexus to said payment, to pay a portion of the salaries owed to the former Commonwealth Casino members. Payments shall be distributed as allocated in Schedule B." On page 29, Section 616: Payment of 25% to Retirees, "Notwithstanding 4 CMC §§ 2308 and 2309, the balance of \$2,490,000 shall be reserved by the Secretary of Finance for payments towards the 25% CMI share of the Settlement Fund payments for FY 2026. On line 5, Section 617: Outside Source Received by the CNMI, "Any funds received by the CNMI government from the federal government or other outside sources shall be identified by the Governor and reported the Legislature for appropriation." On page 35 line 9, under (g): Department of Labor, "Of the amount appropriated to the CNMI Department of Labor, the sum of \$10,000 shall be remitted to the Rota Department of Labor (DOL) under the expenditure authority of Rota Department of Labor resident Director, in consultation of the Mayor of Rota to fund apprenticeship and training programs of U.S. citizens to augment Rota's workforce; and \$10,000 shall be remitted to the Tinian Department of Labor (DOL) under the expenditure authority of Tinian Department of Labor resident Director, in consultation of the Mayor of Tinian, fund apprenticeship and training programs of U.S. citizens to augment Tinian's workforce." Finally, Mr. President, under page 45 covering Department of Public Lands, the committee increased the funding for FY26 for the personal operation of DPL from \$4.8 million to \$6 million. And one of the significant portions of the funds of this provision is on line 3, "Of the funds within the DPL Holding Account, the sum of \$4,000,000 shall be remitted to the Marianas Public Land Trust on or before October 15, 2025, in addition to other constitutional and statutory remittance." Mr. President, that is all I have for now. I yield back my time.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Chairman Hofschneider. The floor is still open for discussion. I recognize the Floor Leader.

**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you Mr. President. And just to continue on with some of the explanations that was shared by the Chairman of Fiscal Affairs, I do want to inform the public that the Administration had the opportunity to submit the budget on April 1st and then

subsequently on July 1st. And so, the House had passed a version based on the numbers that were submitted during that time. Now, the Fiscal Affairs committee was in the middle of the budget deliberations, and it wasn't until this past Monday that we received notice of the reduction in the projected revenues. And so, I think that was the approach that both the House and the Senate had agreed to was to continue with the product that was passed by the House and go off of the \$179 million. And in the event that the Administration, upon signing this bill into law, should there be any changes within any additional resources, the House and the Senate can consider any revision to the budget. We just got the notice a few days ago in regards to these new projected revenues that just wouldn't give us enough time to make the necessary adjustments that would allow for us to pass a product that would avert any shutdown. And so that is the understanding by both houses, and that's what we hope that the administration can consider. Additionally, during our deliberations, these past three days, we've called in the Secretary of Finance as well as the Special Assistant for OMB and had addressed some of the concerns that were raised from these recalculated projections. We've asked for additional information to help resolve some of the issues that have caused these drops or decline in revenue resources. And we want to ensure the public that the Fiscal Affairs committee, as well as the House have agreed to and will consider a lot of these amendments that we need to make in order to recalculate these projections and hopefully bring us a little closer to what was initially projected at \$179 million. Some of these initiatives include amendments to the construction tax, which was signed in the law last year. Another one is the Transient Accommodations bill that is currently in the House that the Fiscal Affairs committee will consider. And also, the changes to the Casino law. We heard from the Governor that there are some concerns that was shared there, and so that's something that we have worked with the former Casino Commissioners on, in regards to what were some of the challenges that were faced there so that we can make these changes to the bill and hopefully that'll invite more investors into the CNMI. And so, once we address all of that, I think that's something that we can work with the Administration on in trying to reevaluate these projections and hopefully bring us back to what was initially proposed. And then I know there has been a lot of concerns surrounding what's happening at PSS but as we've just mentioned, a lot of our actions that these past few days resulted in just the time limitations that we were given to try to address these challenges. We know that there may be some discussions going on with MPLT and PSS and until that time comes, if ever they were to sign an agreement to pull out that loan for the \$29 million then we can address some of these shortfalls that weren't addressed in this current packet. And so, some of that may go to PSS, some of that could address some of the GHLI unfunded obligations. And so, we hope that the Administration, together with the Legislature and MPLT can come to a resolution on how we can move forward with that \$29 million, which should address a lot of the shortfall that we're experiencing right now. So that's all I wanted to share in addition to what the Chairman had brought up. And with that, I want to thank the House Ways and Means committee for hearing some of our concerns so that we can all come up with a final product that is agreed upon by both Houses. And so that could speed up the process and hopefully it'll be on the Governor's desk sometime tomorrow if the House pursues their session tomorrow after we convene today. Thank you. Mr. President.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you Floor Leader Manglona. The floor is still open. I recognize Senator Castro.

**Senator Manny G.T. Castro:** Mr. President, I just wanted to thank the members of the Senate Fiscal Affairs committee as well as the House Ways and Means committee. The way we work together the past week to not just look at the challenges that we're facing in the short term, but also

looking at all the gaps in terms of services and process so that we can mitigate the situation that we're facing right now. In terms of the budget, this is not really a best-case scenario but just as a reminder to all the agencies right now that are in this budget bill, the importance of really taking care of our business community and our investors that are here. We have a lot of serious investors. I want to give a special shout out and thank you to Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, its Executive Directors and also Department of Public Lands for their continued work in dealing with the many investors that are interested in helping diversify our economy. A message to all the permitting agencies, regulatory agencies, to please work with these investors because many of them are legit global U.S. investors. These are not the middlemen that we've been used to. Due to things happening nationally and internationally, CNMI has a lot of advantages and they're looking at the CNMI to invest. We just need to take care of these investors so that we can see the business through. It can bring in the GDP that is going to help fund a lot of our activities. Again, thanks to all the members for their work in this regard and getting this out. But I know it's going to be coming back. But to our government agencies please continue to do your very best and at the same time, take care of the people that are looking to invest in the CNMI. We need them now more than ever. Thank you, Mr. President.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you Senator Castro. The floor is still open for any members. I'll recognize Senator Calvo, then Senator Hofschneider.

**Senator Ronnie M. Calvo:** Thank you, Senate Pres. Over the last couple days when the initial announcement came to fruition, we did have that public hearing in regards to the financial assessment. And this is the real deal, that financial assessment is true to the numbers. And I would like to thank, our Fiscal Affairs committee for their diligent effort in working together with the asks, the wants, and needs from the different departments. Also working with the Ways and Means committee from the House in regards to creating that transparency with the ask. And it is a process. It's not an easy one in regards to the declaration of where our financial situation is and in request for, some federal support. I'd like to ask the general public for their patients and support in regards to the different deliberations that we have to go through. Also, I'll be looking forward to, the Public School System as the Chairman they do have a lot of up and rising concerns, in regards to the implementation of cost saving measures and trying to accommodate things as we're in that process. They will be announcing their, like they stated on the paper, their public hearing. So, we will revisit that and as a Chairperson, we will address all of the many concerns during this situation. So, I'd like to yield. Thank you, Chair.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you, Senator Calvo. I recognize Senator Hofschneider.

**Senator Jude U. Hofschneider:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to add a little bit more to some of the members' comments earlier. Over the last few days we've been having a joint meeting with the Administration and there's a lot of revelations and a lot of critical piece of information that are publicly known right now. And that is for a reason that there is a heavy discussion on collaborative effort with both Houses of the Legislature and the Administration. But the goal is to get a product over to the Governor to consider and avert an unnecessary shutdown on government operation. It's already known that we're going to be revisiting the projection level as some of the recommended legislations that can help navigate us through in short term and hopefully long term. We look forward to that, Mr. President. I think we're all in this together. As

much as we want to give what all the agencies need, their needs and wants, were limited to a projection merely. In anticipation of the loan, the \$29 million, the declaration has already been made known publicly. Now we'll await the process to which we're going to be receiving a notification from the Administration as far as the revenue for the next 12 months into 2026. So, I look forward to that Mr. President. I also wish to thank the leadership of the Ways and Means of the House for, working together with us to really flush out the, there's really not much difference, Mr. President. It's just, we did the inverted way instead of a shutdown or a conference committee, we agreed to work and to have a product in time for the Governor's review and hopefully signing it into law. So, thank you again and I yield back.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you Chairman. I recognize Senator Paul.

**Senator Paul A. Manglona:** *Si yu'us ma'ase* Mr. President. *Gi kinosyomu gi ma'pos na sakkan, magof-hu sa mamatsa ocho ora siha empleão. Pues I kinekalomu ma diskukuti pa'go pa fan ma drop papa' siña disi sais oras nei. Pues guaha dangkulo na difirensia para hao komprendi I taotao guenao huyong. Gi ma'pos na simana ma diskukuti sientos sitentai nuebi piku na miyon para budget I Commonwealth. Singku dias dispues matto katta na sientos sikuentai sais ha dididi miyon nu guaha-ta. Pues gi ma'pos na simana a na \$179 taya gaige gi konsensa mami gi kao baihu sen sappota eyi I benti nuebi miyon na loan na gaige gi MPLT nai kuentotosi I MPLT. Ti mappot eyu pat ta disidi ha kao maolek na disision pa ta ayao benti nuebi miyon pat bâba. Sa esta guaha sientos sitentai nuebi na para ta opera I gobenamentu-ta. Pues kada benti tres miyon tumunnok gi halom un simana nei esta bai komplia I budget. Pues enigi nei man gaige hit pa'go. Pues pa'go ilek-hu taya esta nu yota choice. Debi ha di ta sohyo' yao posibli benti nuebi miyon an siña para ta balansia mo'na todû I kritikar na nesisidat para I Medicaid, I hospitai, I eskuela. Ta hungok I eskuela munsia actually mas pumângun esti I problema I finkas-ta giya Marianas siha. Man huyong yan ta hungok ginen I maestro I man magas siha. Ya siha mas pumângun I dangkulun na siriosu ni ta fafana mona. ya ennao na chuka gi pa'go guaha siha kuensiona esti trenta unu miyon na bai ta na 'I PSS. Lao magof-hu nai annumunia yota Chairman yan parehu I House yan I Senate, I members siha na manmachachung ya ma chagi para ma balansa esti gi mona gi kadada tempo na esta ta fafana otro na simana. Yanggen taya budget ma uchum gobienamento. Pues I kuension pa'go guini i MPLT ya enigi nai ta fafaisen I administrasion un dungkulun na ayudu niha yan famachachung yan I Public Land Trust sa guaha concern niha nu guaha un tungu eyi I margin account na klasen na pa fan huyong na man fan dibi yan ti nisiario na man withdraw I finkas niha u fan ayao ha yao man ha tistigu I hafa na I yonna investment. Enigi malagu niha MPLT ya I lai ni ma pasa I mapos na simana ti tai guenao nula linguaihi pues ola mohon na otro simana guaha kinenprendi ya ta chule' eyi benti nuebi miyon ya ta kompli I nisidat niha I Public School System nu na gi agagao 25% lao ta hungok ha ta ginen siha kao man mannai siha maseha kuarenta miyon pao fan trankilo ennao yan siña ma pera mona I Public School System. Pues gi ennao siensa para pa ta parehu mamamadesi I dididi na guina-ta hu nanai dungkulu na si yu'us ma'ase I Public School System ya maseha gi pa'go na pupuengi para ta nai siha trentai unu miyon I piku guaha mamamaila ni siña pa ta chagi ninasiñacha pat ta ogmenta ennao hulu. Pues magof-hu sa I ritirao nu man ma'atendi-ha, man manâ' I salapi niha na para munga na para guaha 25% na deduction. Na ma na 'I I Medicaid para pat sigura na para ta match eyi manmana hita. Sa komu ti ta match eyu, siempre ma manlingu hit ya otro simana siempre bia âgan hâlom I man magas I Public Health siha I hospitai yan I Medicaid ya pa bien ina mäs esti. Pues, bi na karena Mr. President bula para ta chogue, ya bula tangongo ku na siña man na ayuda yan si Governor Apatang, Lt. Governor,*

*yan I finance, planning and budget, yan i MVA, CPA, CIP nu yan I CEDA yan I department of Public Land. Bula problema* you know, we met with Public Land just yesterday. There are many things we can do. For example, we have Marianas Resort. It's been sitting there and I'm glad Senator Corina, the Chairwoman, finally came out and said the Senate because they failed to come up with all the requirements and answered the questions that were posed by both Houses to move forward. So now, DPL has to take that and it cannot be business as usual. They have to decide what to do with that big property at Marianas Resort. The same thing, the proposal by Senator Jude on the Kanoa Resort, we got to move that. Rota Resort, we put out an RFP three times over the last year and a half, it seems that we just cannot get it over the line. And so, these are all our fault the public has nobody to blame but us. And I'm glad that that now we're continuing to get together and work on these issues. And the commitment is there by this leadership now. And what I'm hearing out there was that in 2020 we saw the urgency to get together to come and form a group, we had a major conference, we had outlines on what to do in the months and years that follow and then we got all this money and we sat back and now we're caught with, it's like a *deja vu* coming back. And it seems in my term in the list, it's just like the fourth or fifth time that we come to this point where we're talking about reduction in force, about who are the essential services and who we're going to lay off. And it just sad because this shouldn't continue to happen here, every 5 to 10 years. We owe it our people from CPA, Commonwealth Ports Authority, to fix our airports to work on the airline issue with MVA. From MVA to Capital Improvement Project Office, doing the CIP projects office of development, pushing those projects instead of asking for time extension after time extension. We heard from Grants Office that the more we spend our money, the more we get indirect costs and why is it that the 702 money, where we can get up to \$11 million a year, but for the last 10 years, we're only getting \$8 million. And that's based on our report card, on how fast we use our money and how efficient we manage the projects. So, these are the issues before us, and I don't want to sound like a broken record, but when we're going to deduct 8 hours from our employees and we're going to start laying off people, this is very hard to tell our people out there. And that's why I just want to mention at this point that in revisiting the budget in the next week or so as we get help from our 902 talk, because of the hardworking effort by our Secretary of Finance and our Congresswoman in DC, everyone in the 902 team as we see help coming from them turning around our tourism and moving our projects and all these other potential areas that we can increase the revenue. We hope to see some changes also in our government. And I want to say that in the next piece of legislation there will be provision in there to make sure that the when we pay also our employees 8 hours, that they're working for 8 hours. Because when we're cutting, 8 hours from hardworking employees, we want to make sure that everybody's working also. And that's why I get calls in that we have "ghost employees" in our government. So, we got to make sure that, when you're on payroll that you're doing work. So that's a provision that I hope to see in the next budget provision. To ensure that our timekeepers are certified and that they are actually certifying the actual hours that are being put in. Because when we're going to be laying off people and cutting the hours, we got to make sure that we're all in here in the same boat here facing the same challenges. There are other provisions that some members have raised and that we should address. *Pues ennao ha* Mr. President. *Dispensa yu. Kulan anakko' yu*, but *magof-hu sa ilek-mu nai ham dididi minutos, lai ennao ha baihu sagan na man makkat I taotao-ta gui ennao puedi eyi siha I man'amko-ta na man malangu yan man gagasta para I hospitat niha pues para ta cut 25% ti promisedi gi esti na budget lao ti chagugu komu ti chogue checho-ta siempre fan man matto hit gi ennao. Pues si yu'us ma'ase* Chairman Jude and I Members *siha na man animu I House, si*



*Chairman JP yan I magatchong-na ni man animu I iyo-mu leadership Mr. President. Si yu'us ma'ase.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Thank you Senator Manglona and thank you for not making me have to call you on time. With that being said, I would like to take a short recess please.

*The Senate recessed at 6:55 p.m.*

*RECESS*

*The Senate reconvened at 7:00 p.m.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Okay, members, we rise back to session. We are still under the discussion for the amendments that Senator Hofschneider had enumerated, Chairman of Fiscal Affairs. If there are no other discussions, I would like to say my piece with regards to the product that we're putting forward for the public. Obviously there has been many discussions from the onset of the submission of the budget through now. The budget affects everybody, there isn't one entity that isn't affected by the funds that we allocate. That being said, I want to commend both the Chairman and members of the Fiscal Affairs committee, as well as the Ways and Means Chair and members for their efforts to ensure that we are allowing ourselves the maximum opportunity to provide and cover down for all the departments that fall under their umbrella that is the CNMI. This has not been simple, easy task. We all found out about it around the same time and every budget is unique in its own right. In my opinion, this budget has its own fingerprints. So, thank you all and I do know that this is a version, a copy, that will be signed into law, but this is not the end of this budget. We will return back in short order to begin to identify and understand what the ripple effects of the reduction in the seething identified for allocation means to the central to the scene of my government, as well as all of our first responders and all of the downstream effects that has import on. That is my time and I'll kindly ask the Clerk to please call the roll on the amendment.

## 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	Yes
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

**CLERK:** Mr. President, all eight (8) members present voted yes.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With eight members voting yes, the amendment offered by Senator Hofschneider hereby passes. Now we're onto the main motion under discussion. Ready? Everybody's ready. Clerk, kindly 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	Yes
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

**CLERK:** Mr. President, all eight (8) members present voted yes.

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** With all eight members voting yes, House Bill 24-46 passes this Senate in the form of Senate Substitute 1. Onto the next item of Agenda, Q: Petition, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications.

### PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** Anybody has any? Any members? None. Announcements. Members? None.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

NONE

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** And with that, I recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.


**Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona:** Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to adjourn today's session, subject to the hall of the chair.

*The motion has been seconded.*

**President Karl R. King-Nabors:** There has been a motion made adjourned today's session, subject to my call, and has been seconded. All in favor of say aye. All opposed? This session stands adjourned at 7:04 PM subject to my call. Good evening everyone.

**The Senate session adjourned at 7:04 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Valerie S. Aguon  
Senate Journal Clerk