

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

THIRD REGULAR SESSION – 2026

SJ 24-21

2nd Day

Wednesday, February 04, 2026

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on January 27, 2026 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: Good afternoon everyone. I hereby call this 2nd Day, Third Regular Session to order. Today is February 4th, Wednesday. The time is currently 1:49 p.m. here at the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building Capitol Hill. It is my honor to be here in front of you today, proceeding over this session. We are currently being viewed on cable television, Channel 23, the Senate's YouTube page, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature's Facebook page. Before we begin, I kindly ask that we rise for a moment of silent prayer.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

And with that, 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	Present
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Present
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Here

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With eight members present and one absent, we have the requisite number to proceed with today's session. Please let the record reflect that Senator Babauta is hereby excused from today's proceedings. Also, to note that Senator Calvo and Vice President Magofna are attending virtually. Thank you for your presence. Before we move on any further, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our LB Staff assisting us today on our session. Our Legal Counsel is Mrs. Antonette Villagomez, our Senate Clerk is Mrs. Dolores Bermudes. Here with us today our IT Manager Mr. Jonathan Diaz, our Sergeant-At-Arms Mr. Benjamin Terlaje, our Senior Legislative Assistant Mrs. Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel, and our Senate Journal Clerk Mrs. Valerie Aguon. Okay. And with that, we will go ahead and proceed with the next item on our agenda, which is Item B, Public Comments. This is a portion of our session where we allow the public to provide any comments on any of the agenda items before us today. With that public comment is now open.

Jean Paul B. Reyes: Good afternoon, *Hafa Adai yan Tirow*, 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. Senate President, I am honored to extend the Administration's appreciation and express our gratitude once more to the Honorable Senate members that are present here today 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 evaluating and examining the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's nominees. This afternoon you'll be entertaining Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-61, the Executive Appointment of Ms. Janet U. Maratita to serve as member for the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation representing the Third Senatorial District for the Private Sector. Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-62, the Executive Appointment of Mr. Paul Andrew Guerrero to serve as a member for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute representing the Third Senatorial District. Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-63 and 24-64, the Executive Appointment of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista and Mr. David B. Guerrero to serve as a member for the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Carolinian Community and the Private Sector for the Third Senatorial District. And lastly, the Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-65, the Executive Appointment of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community for the Third Senatorial District. Your relentless time and effort on entertaining our nominees is an essential step forward as the Administration finalizes the vacancies for all Board and Commissions. With respect to you, Honorable Senate President King-Nabors and Honorable members of this esteemed Senate Body, Governor Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola extends their sincere appreciation and your generous and favorable consideration on behalf of our nominees who have accepted the additional commitment to serving our great Commonwealth. Mr. Senate President, thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase yan ghilisow*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mr. Reyes, your comments are always appreciated.

Mayor Ramon B. Camacho: *Buenas tãtides*, good afternoon Mr. President and members of this body. My name is Ramon “R.B” Jose Blas Camacho, the Mayor for the municipality of Saipan. Mr. President, and members of this body, I'm here to humbly and respectfully seek your upmost consideration and support to confirm all nominees that were recommended by the Governmental Investigation Committee, Chairman Frank Cruz, to confirm them. Mr. Chairman and members of this body, it's very hard to find a volunteer and these nominees with the willingness to accept additional responsibility to navigate the institution that they have been appointed for the betterment of the CNMI. So, I have confidence to all the nominees Mr. President and thank you, Senator Cruz, the Chairman of the Government Investigation. *Si yu'us ma'se*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mayor Camacho.

Vivian Sablan: Good afternoon, Honorable Senate President King-Nabors and Honorable members of the Senate. My name is Vivian Sablan, Administrator for the Division of Youth Services under DCCA and I thank you all for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of Senate Bill No. 24-41. Child safety is paramount! The Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry gives the Commonwealth a clear system to track substantiated child abuse and neglect cases, support safe hiring practices and volunteer recruitments and above all, help prevent repeated harm to our children. This bill gives us the structure and guidance we need to operate the registry properly - with confidentiality, due process and accountability built in. In FY 2025, DYS received a total of 153 clearance requests. For FY 2026, (only 4 months into the fiscal year) DYS had already received a total of 193 requests. This system will produce the needed structure for DYS to streamline the process instead of conducting the checks manually. Additionally, the Child Abuse Registry has a significant impact on federal funding for other CNMI agencies. The DCCA Child Care Licensing Program and CNMI Head Start Program, to name a few, have reached out to DYS pleading for a Child Abuse Registry to be in place as not having one as part of the hiring clearances, will affect their federal grant awards. I would also like to highlight that Senate Bill No. 24- 41 has been in the making for close to 3 years now and so many work hours were vested in this process starting from ground zero. On April 14, 2023, DYS had received a Technical Assistance award and the Child Abuse Registry was introduced as a TA (Technical Assistance) Priority with the Children's Bureau Center for States, which is today called the National Child Welfare Center for Innovation and Advancement. The TA Award provided a consultant to work closely with our staff, which led the beginning of an intensive biweekly meeting starting in June 20, 2023. By October of the same year, the first draft of the Child Abuse Registry Standard Operating Procedures was produced. Moving forward to January 2024, DYS was recognized by the Center for States and wanted to feature the CNMI's Registry efforts in the Center for States article, “Telling our Stories.” We did this and it was a huge recognition, which had also played a major factor in motivating our staff to push forward. On February 2024, the project was formally introduced to the community through media outlets. Fortunately, DYS sought and received an extension of the TA award for another 6 months, as a child welfare guidance is crucial as DYS moves through this process. By June 2024, DYS conducted a CNMI-wide stakeholders meeting with the produced recommendations and concerns that were considered in the subsequent drafts. On March of 2025, the final draft was produced, and on July 2025, the legislation was introduced in the Senate and accompanied by letters of support back in November of 2025. Here we are today. We appreciate

all the work that went into this bill and most especially thank Senator Donald M. Manglona who was very instrumental in getting the bill introduced. We respectfully and humbly ask for your support as this is a critical step forward in our local child welfare system and improving the safety of our CNMI children. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Ms. Sablan. Do you mind do you mind providing a copy [of your statement] to the Sergeant-At-Arms? Appreciate it.

Francisco M. Rabauliman: Good afternoon, Mr. President and members of this Honorable Body. Now that you've heard the technical stuff earlier from the previous speaker, let me just give you the overall sentiment of the entire department. For the record, my name is Francisco M. Rabauliman. I'm the Secretary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and thank you for allowing me to share comments on Senate Bill No. 24-41. DCCA fully supports this bill. Establishing a Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry strengthens how we protect children and help ensure that the systems in place are clear, consistent, and responsible. This registry will support prevention efforts, improve coordination between agencies, and provide clear safeguards for both children and individuals. It creates a balanced approach, one that prioritizes child safety while respecting confidentiality and due process. This effort is consistent with emerging federal rules regarding comprehensive background checks for individuals who are seeking opportunities to work closely with vulnerable members of our communities, namely our youth. In closing, I want to acknowledge DYS and CPS for the work they've done to develop this bill. DCCA stands ready to support implementation once it becomes law. Thank you for your time and leadership.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Rabauliman.

Mariah B. Manglona: Good afternoon Honorable President King-Nabors and honorable members. My name is Mariah Barcinas Manglona from the DCCA Division of Youth Services - Child Protective Services. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill No. 24-41. First, I want to thank the JGL Committee and the bill's author for the work that has gone into advancing the Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry. This bill represents a major step forward for child protection in the CNMI, and we truly appreciate the support shown so far. I would also like to note for the record that DYS has provided the Floor Leader, Senator Donald Manglona with proposed amendments to this bill. These amendments help strengthen the bill, provide clarity for implementation and support a fair and responsible registry process. At this time, I respectfully ask the full Senate body to consider and approve the proposed amendments submitted prior to taking final actions of the bill. Thank you again for your leadership, your time, and your continued commitment to protecting children and families in the CNMI.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you. Ms. Manglona. Floor is still open for public comments. If there are none, we will go ahead and close Public Comments for today's session. Moving on to agenda Item C, Reading and Approval of the Journal, I recognize our Floor Leader.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-20, 1st Day, Third Regular Session dated January 16, 2026.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-20, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Ayes have it. Senate Journal No. 24-20 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Onto Messages from the Governor, recognize the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR:

Clerk: Mr. President we have 10 on our agenda, Governor's Message No. 24-209 to 218.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion by any of the members. If there are none, I would kindly ask the Clerk to please leave on agenda Message from the Governor No. 24-210 for next session. And moving on to Communications from Judiciary, there are none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY:
NONE

Communications from Heads of Executive Departments, recognize the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS:

Clerk: We have 2 on our agenda, Mr. President, 24-18 and 19.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any discussions from the members? None? Before moving on to the Communications from the House, if there are no objections from the members, I would like to go directly to the Standing Committee Reports of the Appointees.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: No objection.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: No objections? And with that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-61 from the Committee on EAGI reporting on the Executive Appointment of Ms. Janet U. Maratita to serve on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors to represent the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-61 and has been seconded. Before we go on to discussion, if I can kindly request the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort the Appointee into the gallery. Good afternoon Ms. Maratita, *buenas*. And with that, I'll recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President your Committee and Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 24-61 and this is the Executive Appointment of Ms. Janet U. Maratita 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 Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Ms. Janet U. Maratita to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector begs leaves the report as follow. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Maratita'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. And 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. Maratita 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. Maratita'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 five oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which two hard copies of the testimonies were submitted during the public hearing, one written testimony 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. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Ms. Maratita's credential, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Ms. Janet U. Maratita 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

here at the Honorable Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building here at the Senate Chamber on January 28, 2026. 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, NMHC Board of Directors. And in conclusion, all the 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 the pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the Executive Appointment of Ms. Janet U. Maratita 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. Janet U. Maratita 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 humbly ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-61. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other members for discussion? I recognize Senator Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. *Put i ti member yu gi komité gi EAGI, gi magahet, bula kuention-hu para si Congresswoman gi bādan housing yan homestead ya put I guaha oportunidad esta na, ya ma hasso ham kumuentos gi esti siha, nu ya komprende magahet na satifetus-yu nai dinancho-ña si Governor David Apatang, para ta hu tantsu si Congresswoman para member guine na board. Pues, esta yu listo Mr. President. Si yu'us ma'ase.*

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Manglona. Any other members have discussions? Members online, are you good? Okay, with that I'll go ahead and ask the Clerk to 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 voting “yes”

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-61 is hereby adopted by the Senate officially confirming Ms. Janet U. Maratita to serve for the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors to represent the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. Congratulations. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:13 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:13 p.m.

We now rise back and I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-62 from the Committee on EAGI reporting on the Executive Appointment of Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero, to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent the Third Senatorial District. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-62 and has been seconded. Under discussion. I would like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Short recess please, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:14 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:17 p.m.

We now rise back and thank you Mr. Guerrero for taking the seat in the gallery with us. And with that I'll recognize Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President this is second committee report that your Committee on Executive Appointment is ready to present Standing Committee

Report No. 24-62. And this is the Executive Appointment of Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero, to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District. Again, your committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero, to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District begs leave the report as follows. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Guerrero's Executive Appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District. And 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. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero, to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District. Again, your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the Executive Appointment of Mr. Guerrero's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees. And in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are five oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which no hard copies of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing, eleven 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. Guerrero's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District. The public hearing was conducted on January 27, 2026, in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building. And during the hearing, several recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the Appointee, accompanied by NMTech Chief Executive Officer Ms. Jodina Attao, to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees. And in conclusion, all required documents in conformance 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. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District is in accordance with 3 CMC §12112. Therefore, your Committee consent the confirmation on Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero, to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute Board of Trustees representing the Third Senatorial District. Again, I ask this body to support Standing Committee Report No. 24-62. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. Any other members for discussion? Ready? Ready. 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-62 is hereby adopted, officially confirming Mr. Paul Andrew C. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Northern Marianas Technical Institute to represent the Third Senatorial District. Congratulations. Before I recognize the Floor Leader, may I ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to please escort Mr. Evangelista into the gallery.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, can we also invite Mr. Guerrero since they're both with the college?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Sure. And also Mr. Dave B. Guerrero, thank you Floor Leader. And with that, I'll recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-63 from the Committee on EAGI reporting on the Executive Appointment of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and Carolinian Community. I move for to adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion and has been seconded for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-63. Under discussion, I would like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, this is the third Standing Committee [Report] that your Committee your Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present. And this is the Standing Committee Report No. 24-63, the Executive Appointment of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations

to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community begs leave to report as follow. After review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista's Executive Appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. 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. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. Your Committee examined all pertinent documents relating to the Executive Appointment of Mr. Evangelista's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. And in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are six oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which two hard copies of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing 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. Evangelista's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. The public hearing was conducted on January 28, 2026 here at the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised with Appointee, accompanied by Appointee Guerrero, to address and look into if confirmed as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. 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. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community is in accordance with 3 CMC §1311. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. Again, I ask this body to kindly support [Standing] Committee Report No. 24-63. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Cruz. [The] Floor is still open for discussion for members. If there are none, then I'll 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-63 is officially adopted. Officially appointing Mr. Michael N. Evangelista to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Private Sector and the Carolinian Community. Congratulations. Thank you. I now would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-64 from the committee on EAGI reporting on the Executive Appointment of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. I move for adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-64, and has been seconded. Under discussion, I'd now like to recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. This is the fourth committee report that your Committee is ready to present to the full body of this Senate, and this is the Executive Appointment of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector begs leave to report as follow. And after review and consideration of the testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero's Executive Appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. And 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. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the Executive Appointment of Mr. Guerrero's overall credentials 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 six oral

testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which three hard copies of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing and one written testimony 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. Guerrero's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. The hearing was conducted on January 28, 2026 here at the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, and during the hearing certain recommendations, issues and concerns were raised for the Appointee, accompanied by Appointee Evangelista, to address and look into if confirmed as a board member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents. And in conclusion, all required documents in conformance 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 Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector is in accordance with 3 CMC §1311. Therefore, your Committee concerns the confirmation of Dave B. Guerrero to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and Private Sector. Again, I ask this body to kindly support Standing Committee Report No. 24-64. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Before we still open for discussion for members. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-64, is hereby adopted by the Senate, officially appointing Mr. Dave B. Guerrero to

serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and the Private Sector. Congratulations.

Dave B. Guerrero: Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you. Serge, can I kindly ask [...] Thank you. *Buenas.* Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. And the last, on our list of appointments, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-65 from the Committee on EAGI reporting on the Executive Appointment of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority representing the Public Sector and Carolinian Community. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been motion for the passage or the adoption rather, of Standing Committee Report No. 24-65 and has been seconded. Under discussion, I would like to recognize Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Jean Paul B. Reyes: Thank you Mr. President. Mr. President, this is the last and fifth report that your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations is ready to present to this body. And this is the Standing Committee Report No. 24-65, the Executive Appointment of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. Again, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations to which was referred the appointment of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community beg leaves to report as follow. And after review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman's Executive Appointment to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. And 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. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the Executive Appointment of Mr. Rabauliman's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Executive Authority Board of Directors. And in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee there are eight oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which two hard copies of the testimonies stated was submitted during the hearing, nine 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. Rabauliman's credential, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. The public hearing was conducted on January 27, 2026 in the Senate Chamber of the Honorable Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building. And during the hearing certain recommendations, issues and concerns are raised for the Appointee to address and look into if confirm 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. Based on the submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that Executive Appointment of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community is in accordance [conformance] with 4 CMC §5051122. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority Board of Directors representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. Again, I ask the full body of the Senate to kindly support Standing Committee Report No. 24-65. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Cruz. Members for discussion? Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-65, is hereby adopted by this body, officially appointing Mr. Mark O. Rabauliman to serve as a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth Economic Incentive Authority representing the Public Sector and the Carolinian Community. Congratulations. Short recess, please.

The Senate recessed at 2:39 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

And we will now be rising back. Next on the agenda, [Item] G, Communications from the House. Recognize the Clerk.

Clerk: Mr. President we have 4 on our agenda, 24-119 to 1-22.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion from the members. None? On to Item H, Communications from the Senate. Clerk.

Clerk: We have 24-189 to 192, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion from the members. Being none, we have nothing under [Item] I, Communications from the CNMI Delegate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE:

NONE

[Item] J, nothing on Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

Under [Item] K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. At this time, I would like to recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. Good afternoon everyone. Officially introducing Senate Local Bill No. 24-04, "To define and authorize the use of abandoned investigative deposits held by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC); to establish procedures for notice, claims, and final dispositions of such deposits; to authorize the appropriation of abandoned deposits to pay outstanding regulatory fees, assessments, penalties, and taxes owed to the Commission; and for other purposes." Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Senator Hofschneider. And at this point I would like to recognize the Vice President of the Senate, Senator Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Pres sorry, can we short recess please?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: No problem. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 2:57 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: We now rise back to session and with that I recognize the Vice President, Senator Magofna to introduce her bill.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: *Si yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President. I would like to officially introduce Senate Bill No. 24-56, "To repeal and reenact 2 CMC § 4842 to increase the penalties for taking or destroying historic or cultural artifacts and properties; and for other purposes." Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you. And last but not least, I recognize Senator Manny Gregorio T. Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to introduce Senate Bill No. 24-57, "To amend 4 CMC § 5611 to modernize and clarify the general business licensing framework to promote economic efficiency, business growth, and administrative consistency." And if I may just talk a little bit about the concept behind this. When I was still in Precinct II, I was approached by a small business owner, how they were operating in Susupe selling fish and other small business owners. And when they brought their mobile fish trailer to Garapan, they were told that they need a business license for Garapan. So I looked into the regulation and a few years ago the law was changed and it required a business license per location. So, with this it actually bottlenecks our permitting process and it shouldn't be that way. We should make it more seamless, especially for our small business community to get established. And this goes hand in hand with our good Floor's bill with the "cottage kitchen law" that was just passed. So, it's going to help reduce all the barriers to entry within our government. I look for all your support in getting this bill through. Thank you, Mr. President and members.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Castro. Moving on the agenda, we have Item L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. Any members have anything to introduce that didn't make the agenda? Recognize Senator Paul.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Mr. President, I'd like to introduce an unnumbered Senate Resolution, "To recognize and commend Honorable Justice Perry Borja Inos for his long-lasting contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and its people." Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Senator Manglona. Any other members? If not, we'll go ahead and go directly to Standing Committee Report number two and I will recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-51 from the Judiciary Government and Law Committee recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-26 in its current form. I move for adoption.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Second.

This motion was seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the passage of Standing Committee Report No. 24-51 and has been seconded. Under discussions. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-65 is hereby adopted and is already on today's Bill Calendar. If there are no objections from the members, I would like to kindly ask that we go directly to that portion of the Bill Calendar so we can discuss the amendments and passage. No objections? Recognize the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the passage of Senate Bill No., sorry, House Bill No. 24-26, “To amend the crime of child abuse.”

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the passage of House Bill No. 24-26, and has been seconded. Under discussion.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:07 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:08 p.m.

And I recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President, sorry for the misunderstanding. At this time, I withdraw my motion and if we can go back to the Bill Calendar, I mean, the Committee Reports.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: No objection.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. Recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. At this time, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-50 from the Judiciary, Government, and Law Committee recommending the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-05 in its current form, I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-50 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready?

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed. Standing Committee Report No. 24-50 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Up next we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-52 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law recommending the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-38 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-51 and has been seconded. Discussion? 52, I'm sorry. Ready? All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-52 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Up next we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-53 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-40, recommending the passage in its current form, I move for its adoption.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-53 and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-53 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-53 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-54 from the Judiciary, Government and Law Committee recommending the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-41 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion on the floor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-54 and it has been seconded. Under discussion. Ready? All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-54 is hereby adopted by this body. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-55 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law recommending the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-47 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion for the passage of Standing Committee Report No. 24-55 and has been seconded. Discussion.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: All in favor for the adoption, say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-55 has been adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-55 [56] from the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-35 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-56 and has been seconded. Discussion. Ready? All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-56 is hereby adopted by this body. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-57 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-24, HD1 in the form of HB 24-24 HD1, SD1. I move further to adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-57 and has been seconded. Under discussions by the members. None? All in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-57 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-58 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-33 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-58 and has been seconded. Under discussion. There being none, all in favor say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-58 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-59 from the Committee on Fiscal Affairs recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-63 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's a motion on the floor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-59 and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-59 is hereby adopted by this body. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. Last on the list, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-60 from the Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Workforce recommending the passage of House Bill No. 24-13, HD1 in its current form. I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-60 and has been seconded. Under discussions. Ready? All in favor for the adoption say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-60 is hereby adopted by the Senate. We have nothing under Agenda Item N, Reports of Special and Conference Committees.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

NONE

Nothing under [Item] O, Resolution Calendar.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR:

NONE

Onto [Item] P, Bill Calendar. I recognize our Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Without any objections from the members, can we just move along so that we can indulge the members of DYS that are present here today? We have Senate Bill No. 24-41, “To establish a Child Abuse and Neglect Central Registry in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There is a motion by the Floor Leader for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-41 and has been seconded. Under discussion. I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I'd like to move for a floor amendment on Senate Bill No. 24-41. And if you can just follow through with the copies that were provided to the members, all the ones in highlights and underline sections are the ones that will be added into the bill. So, starting from Section 3, page 4, lines 2-6, were striking out on line 104(c)(1) the “per violation” language. And then on (2), replacing the current language with “Imprisonment of up to five years; or”, and as we move down to lines 22-23, replace language and include language of “...non-refundable fee of up to \$25.00, or an amount set by DYS through regulation.” And we're replacing Section 106(b)(1) with the following methods, “[a)] Cash [in person], [(b)] Certified check or money order...” On page 5, lines 14-28, we're replacing on in Section 107 (b)(1), sorry, we're adding language “...upon receipt of the notice”, and then in [Section] 107 (b)(3) “Appeals shall go through an Independent Administrative Hearing only after the Internal Review Panel completes their review.” Under [Section] 107 (b)(3)(A) adding language of “...receiving the denial of removal request.” And Under [Section] 107(b)(3)(B)(i) instead of independent, replacing that with “Neutral hearing officer designated in accordance with the CNMI Administrative Procedure Act.” And then moving on to page 6, lines 20-21, Section 109(b) replacing the current language to, “Individuals who were minors at the time of the substantiated offense may request early removal upon turning 21.” And then on the same page, line 26, replacing the title in Section 110 from penalties for unauthorized use to “Penalties for Unauthorized Access and Use of Child Abuse and Neglect Registry.” And then on page 7, lines 2-3, Section 110(b), replacing the language to include Subsections (b), (1), (2), (3), which is “a fine of up to 10,000; Imprisonment of up to five years; or Permanent access revocation for violators.” Consistent with the intent of the following amendments are hereby also moved to allow Legal Counsel together with the Senate Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal. So, moved.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a floor amendment to Senate Bill No. 24-41, made by the Floor Leader and has been seconded. Under discussions, recognize Senator Paul.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Yeah. I'm just... I support the amendment but, I just have a question here because on the first amendment the violation calls for the automatic imprisonment of up to five years, where the language initially was potential criminal penalties, including imprisonment. And I just mentioned that because if it's a minor violation, he can be fined \$5 or \$100, but automatic imprisonment it calls for, automatic. And I'm just wondering whether that was discussed because like just yesterday in the U.S. the Department of Justice accidentally released Epstein files, and by the Department of Justice and now with language like this, even if it's accidentally or for what reason you're sending that person automatically to prison and is that what we want? And not give a discretion to the Judge. Because, in the other provision you actually didn't amend that. It was like in Subsection 110(b) violators or one fine up to \$10,000 imprisonment. So, it's not consistent here. And is there a reason for that on amendment 6?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: The language is consistent, provided that there's an "or" after the second. So, it's "a fine of up to \$10,000, Imprisonment of up to five years; or Permanent access to revocation." So, it could be any one of the three.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: So, it'll be a fine of \$10,000.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: And then the second one is "Imprisonment of up to five years." And then, or, and then there's a third option. That would be the description.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Okay.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Any one of the three.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Okay. But so there's...so should we. Okay. Alright. Understood. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any other members for discussion?

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Ready? Clerk, please call the roll on the amendments.

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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes” on the amendment, the floor amendments offered by the Floor Leader are hereby adopted. Back to the main motion. Discussion?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Ready, 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-41 hereby passes the Senate in the form of Senate Substitute 1. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President up next, if there are no objections, I would like to move on to House Bill No. 24-26, “To amend the crime of child abuse.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the passage of House Bill No. 24-26, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-26 is hereby passed by the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Next, we have Senate Bill No. 24-05, “To establish a Fire Reserve Corps to assist the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS) and the Commonwealth Ports Authority-Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (CPA-ARFF) in fire prevention and suppression, rescue operations, basic and advanced life support; and for other purposes.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the adoption by the Floor Leader of Senate Bill No. 24-05 and has been seconded. Discussion from the members. Recognized Senator Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Colleagues, I would like to thank you for your support on this bill, as well as thank you to the firefighters and other service members for their service to the community. Given the tough economic challenges, I think a bill like this could help reduce costs

and improve outcomes and allow opportunities for more people to get into the career track. At the same time, it provides for opportunity for accreditation of certain programs. We're also working on a similar bill for the police as well. But again, thank you for considering this bill.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Castro. Any other members? And with that, I'll 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-05 is hereby passed by the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Senate Bill No. 24-38, “To rename the DPS Boating Safety Building to the “Jose Camacho Sablan Boating Safety Station” in recognition of his contributions and dedication to ensuring the safety of the public in the surrounding waters of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion by the Floor Leader for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-38, and has been seconded. Discussion from the members. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-38 is hereby passed by the Senate. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have House Bill No. 24-13, HD1, “To amend the fee structure for the Office of the Registrar of Corporations under the Department of Commerce and to remove daily penalty fees.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been motion made by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-13, House Draft 1, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Everybody 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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-13, House Draft 1, is hereby passed by the body. And last one, recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. And last on our Bill Calendar of list of bills that we'll be acting on today is House Bill No. 24-24 HD1, SD1, “To enact 4 CMC § 1208 and 4 CMC § 1313 to establish a Legal Services and Access to Justice Tax Credit.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion made by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-24 House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, and has been seconded. Discussion from the members. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

Clerk: Senator...

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Oh, hold on one second. My apologies. Recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Can I request for a short recess?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Yes. Short recess please.

The Senate recessed at 3:28 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:28 p.m.

We now rise back and we are under discussion for the passage of House Bill No. 24-24 HD1, SD1, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: My apologies, Mr. President. At this time, I'd like to introduce an amendment under Section 3, beginning on page 7, lines 3-5, to add a new Subsection

“(f) The qualifying recipient organization shall provide a report of the expenditure of the funds received to the presiding officers of the Legislature within thirty (30) days after the end of each tax year.” Consistent with the intent of the foregoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the Senate Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal. So, move.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a floor amendment offered by the Floor Leader and has been seconded. Can I call for a short recess please?

The Senate recessed at 3:30 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

We now rise back and we are entertaining the amendment made by the Floor Leader, which I believe has been seconded. Yes. So, under discussion on the amendment. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, the floor amendment offered by the Floor Leader is hereby adopted. Back to the main motion discussion. Ready? 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	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 voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-24 HD1, hereby passes the Senate in the form of SD2. Moving on our agenda. Agenda, Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 4 on our agenda, No. 24-73 to 77.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion. Ready? Under [Item] R, Announcements. Any members have any announcements to make?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Pres.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you. Just remind the Fiscal Affairs [Committee], we have a February 10th committee meeting of which we're going to invite the Secretary of Commerce to appear before the Committee on specific legislation, primarily on the appropriation of the Cannabis Commission funds. Now that the EO is in the full effect, it's under Department of Commerce, I believe we need to be guided before we move on that legislation. Also, on the 12th the request of the committee, we are having a public hearing and we invited the Secretary of Finance and the Commissioner of Education (PSS) to further discuss with the members on the \$4.9 million Corporation. That is before the Committee, so just want to remind the members. Thank you, I yield back.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chair. Any other members? Recognized Senator Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Just wanted to announce that a PUTC committee meeting for the Senate will be on Wednesday, February 11th [at] 1:30 to 2:30 PM. We have two items on the agenda. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you. Anything else by the members? We're good? Recognize the Floor Leader.

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

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

ADJOURNMENT:

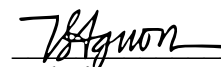
President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion for the adjournment subject to my call and has been seconded. All in favor say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? This session stands adjourned. We are adjourned at officially 3:34 p.m. Thank you all.

The Senate session adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie S. Aguon
Senate Journal Clerk