

THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

THIRD SPECIAL SESSION – 2026

SJ 24-26

1st Day

Friday, May 01, 2026

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on April 24, 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 morning, everyone. I hereby call this 1st Day, 3rd Special Session to order. Today is Friday, May 1st. The time is 11:44 a.m. here at the Senate Chamber, [of the] Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. We'd like to welcome everybody here in the gallery with us in the session today. Also, those who are watching through the Senate's YouTube page or the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. Before calling roll, I'd like to ask everyone to stand for a moment of silent prayer.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(Attendance)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, eight (8) members are present and one (1) [is] absent.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With eight members present, we have the requisite number to proceed with today's Special Senate session. Please let the record reflect that Vice President Magofna is hereby excused from today's session. Before moving on to Public Comment, I'd like to recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motions for today's session.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to suspend pertinent rules to amend the agenda to include House Bill No. 24-89 and House Bill No. 24-91, and to suspend pertinent rules to place these two bills on today's calendar for action in this session.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been a motion offered by the Floor Leader to amend today's agenda to include House Bills No. 24-89 and 24-91 on today's agenda, as well to place them on Bill Calendar for action, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members? If everyone's ready, Clerk, please call the roll on the suspension.

ROLL CALL

(Suspend Rules to include House Bill No. 24-89 & 24-91 to Agenda)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight (8) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, the motion offered by the Floor Leader is hereby adopted. Before we go... so next item on the agenda is Public Comments. This is a portion of our agenda where we allow the public to provide any comments on any items on today's agenda. Please limit your comments to five minutes. Please state your name for the record, the entity that you are here on behalf, and/or if you're representing yourself. Thank you. Public Comments is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Warren F. Villagomez: Good morning, Senate President Nabors [and] Honorable Members of the Senate. My name is Warren F. Villagomez, I'm representing the Marianas Visitors Authority. I'm the Board Chair for MVA. On behalf of [the] Marianas Visitors Authority, I stand strong to support House Bill No. 24-96. First, I want to thank each of you for your continued commitment to tourism and to the people of the Commonwealth. Your leadership and support have been critical as we work through one of the most challenging periods our industry has faced, and we truly appreciate the partnership. Tourism is not just one sector of our economy. It is the driver of jobs, small businesses, and government revenue across our islands. When tourism slows, it is felt immediately by our families, workforce, and our ability to fund essential services. Today, that foundation is under serious pressure. The global fuel crisis and ongoing conflict in the Middle East are increasing airline costs and weakening demand. At the same time, Super Typhoon Sinlaku has disrupted operations across all airlines serving the CNMI, creating additional uncertainty in our already fragile air service environment. This funding is critical because it allows us to act now. It gives us the tools to stabilize flights, support our airline partners, and protect the visitor arrivals that keep our economy moving. Without timely interventions, the risk is not just [a] slowdown, but further economic contraction that will take much longer and cost far more to recover from. We need to reboot tourism as soon as local tourism partners and sites are ready to protect jobs and revenue generation as we continue to recover. We respectfully ask for your continued support and urgency in moving this measure forward. *Si yu'us ma'åse* and thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Villagomez. Public Comment is still open.

Judy C. Torres: *Håfa Adai yan Tirow*, Senate President King-Nabors and Honorable Members of the Senate. My name is Judy C. Torres, representing the Marianas Visitors Authority. We hope that you and your families are safe and stable as we continue our recovery from Super Typhoon Sinlaku. We also extend our sincere appreciation for the support your offices have provided across our community during this difficult time. This morning, I would like to enter into the record the comments of the MVA Managing Director, Mrs. Jamica Tajeron, on House Bill No. 24-96, as documented in her letter dated February 19th to House Floor Leader Marisa Flores. But I would also like to take this opportunity to share a brief update on the tourism situation due to the recent super typhoon. As you may know, due to the current conditions of the airport, United Airlines is presently the only carrier operating daytime flights. Flights from Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong, and the Philippines remain suspended due to damage to the airport, which has impacted the operation of nighttime flights. Based on updates from the Port Authority, the airport is currently waiting parts needed to repair critical navigation aids. In addition, major hotels are currently closed to the public due to change to facilities and-- due to damage to facilities and essential system, with only a few properties accommodating emergency responders. At this time, there is no confirmed timeline for when additional hotel rooms will become available. We are conducting weekly hotel assessment surveys to monitor progress on the operational status and overall recovery. We are actively coordinating with our partners to ensure timely dissemination of accurate information via our offshore offices, media, and social platforms to safeguard clear and positive message to the public. The MVA has established recovery SOP procedures to address the current situation. This

SOP is a three-phase approach designed to ensure our destination messaging with partners and travelers remain clear, consistent, and responsible during the recovery period. Our goal is to protect the Marianas brand and to evaluate the timing to reboot tourism based on actual recovery conditions on the ground. As you can see, we have challenges ahead of us. Therefore, this appropriation is urgently needed to support both immediate recovery and medium-term stabilization initiative, including air service support, destination restoration, and targeted marketing efforts to re-engage key markets once conditions improve. At this critical juncture, strategic investment is essential to ensure that the Marianas remain competitive and capable of rebuilding the tourism economy. For this reason, the Marianas Visitors Authority respectfully requests the favorable consideration and passage of this measure by the House of Representative of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. We are Marianas Strong, we are resilient, and we will recover together as the Marianas...far from ordinary. Thank you, *si yu'us ma'åse yan olomwaay*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Ms. Torres, for your comments today.

James DeLeon Guerrero: *Buenas dias* and good morning everyone. My name is James DeLeon Guerrero. I'm currently representing the Division of Customs and Biosecurity, and I'm here this morning to offer my support on behalf of Director Joe Mafnas for House or rather Senate Bill No. 24-48. Now, this particular bill being brought to the floor for voting couldn't have come at a more urgent time here in the Commonwealth. Just this morning we have operationalized the activation of Emergency Support Function 11 so that we can conduct meticulous disaster-level biosecurity inspections across the CNMI and in Guam. We are currently in active coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make sure that all cargos that are coming into the CNMI are inspected there in Guam before they get sent over to the CNMI. And the one thing that I would like to emphasize is that we have never really had a storm this huge and this long for as far as I can remember in my entire lifetime. The spread of invasive are real-- invasive species are real, and Guam, being of a particular jurisdiction of concern for us here in the CNMI, have over sixty different types of invasive species there that are not present anywhere in the CNMI. We are quite concerned also about the current situation down on Rota, or in Rota, where the movement of debris, for example could inadvertently spread coconut rhinoceros beetle and contaminate further areas within that particular municipality. So as a result of all these concerns, as well as in the case of our agency, more than half of our workforce are actually-- or almost half of our workforce have been activated to also respond to other disaster needs. So, whatever we have currently right now is put under the framework of conducting biosecurity inspections across the CNMI and in Guam, as well as incoming relief flights from elsewhere throughout the nation. This particular biosecurity bill will address and give us, a lot of flexibility in terms of making sure that we're able to impose and develop regulations and impose fines on repeat offenders or people with malicious intent to try to smuggle anything into the CNMI. The other part of this is that it would also allow us the flexibility to be able to unify the two different positions within my agency. So, for example, as it stands right now both sides just can't be, Customs Officers can perform biosecurity duties, but Quarantine Officers cannot perform customs duties, and we need that flexibility because we have to move people around as needed. So that's another particular issue that will be addressed as a result of this particular bill. But there are a number of other concerns as well that we have looked at, and the only thing actually that this particular bill will do is fix the current system and try to allow us for to move forward with adopting a more modern set of regulations that deals with the changing of

the times, for lack of a better word. Thank you, and *dangkolo na si yu'us ma'ase*, finally, to get this bill before this body so that it can move along.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. DeLeon Guerrero, for those remarks.

Delbert Pua: Good afternoon, Mr. Senate President, and to this august body. I am Delbert Pua, one of the front liners for the Port of Entry, Seaport. We stand today at a critical juncture for the security and prosperity of the CNMI. Far too long, our protective infrastructure has been compartmentalized, hindering our abilities to address 21st Century threats. Today, we have the opportunity to change that trajectory with the introduction and passage of Senate Bill No. 24-48, sponsored by Senator Jude Hofschneider. Senate Bill No. 24-48 is not merely administrative shift, it's a vital modernization. By consolidating customs operations with biosecurity functions under the Department of Finance, we are creating a unified, responsive, and empowered regulatory body. Currently, our fragmented approach leaves us gaps in our borders that invite illicit substance and dangerous contraband. By designating these personnel as law enforcement officers, this bill grants them the necessary authority to enforce the Excise Tax, the Controlled Substance Act, and the Weapons Act with the rigor our citizens deserve. Furthermore, our island economy relies on the health of our environment. By integrating the dedicated Agricultural Quarantine staff from the Department of Land and Natural Resources into this singular division, we create an impenetrable line of defense against invasive species that threatens our ecological integrity. This bill provides the structured pay adjustments and leadership clarity required to retain our best talent, ensuring that the morale remains high while standards are elevated. The efficiency of a unified force is, without question, superior to the status quo. We are asking this body to move past the fragmented policies of the past and embrace a proactive strategy. As the saying goes, *"Security is not [a] luxury, but the foundation upon which every other aspect of our island life thrives; by failing to secure our borders, we imperil our future."* I respectfully call upon the Senate to pass Senate Bill No. 24-48 unanimously. Let us send a clear, unified message to the people of the CNMI: your safety, your environment, and your economy security are our absolute our priorities. Let us vote for a more resilient, safer, and better organized future. Thank you, Mr. President, and to this august body.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: *Si yu'us ma'ase* Mr. Pua. Public Comments are still open. If there are none, I will go ahead and close Public Comments at this time. Public Comments are now closed. Before proceeding on the rest of today's agenda, please allow me to introduce the Legislative Bureau staff assisting us with our Session today. To my left, Legal Counsel, Mrs. Antonette Villagomez. To my right, Senate Clerk Dolores Villagomez...Dolores Bermudes, my apologies. The gentleman walking around assisting is Sergeant-At-Arms Benjamin Terlaje. Assisting us with IT is Mr. Delbert Camacho. Also assisting us today is our Senior Legislative Assistant, Jolyn Duenas-Tagabuel, our Senate Journal Clerk, Mrs. Valerie Santos-Aguon, and also our Youth Congress coordinator, Mr. Luis John Castro. Thank you for your assistance with our Senate Session here today. If there are no objections from the members, I would like to go ahead and move directly to Item M, number 2, Standing Report Committee No. 24-78. Any objections by the members?

Senator Celina R. Babauta: None.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: No objection.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. With that, I'll go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to adopt Standing Committee Report No. 24-78 from the Committee on Judiciary, Government, and Law reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-48 in which the Committee recommends adoption in its current form.

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. 24-78 reporting on Senate Bill 24... I'm sorry, Senate Report 78, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-48, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members? If I could recognize the author of the bill, Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. And first I wish to express my appreciation for the entities that are here this morning to express support, and of course provide the guidance to the office to be able to move forward with this legislation. I couldn't have said it any better, Mr. President and members, and to the viewing public, and to what Colonel James DeLeon Guerrero and Officer Delbert Pua have alluded to today, and previously, and also to the previous meetings, public meetings that have been established with regards to this piece of legislation. I also wish to thank the Committee Chair for recognizing the critical aspect of moving forward with this legislation because of the obvious situation with responding to the devastation of Super Typhoon Sinlaku. So, I am now going to delve into the meat of the bill, and basically this is in support to bring the Executive Order that was executed, without any objection from the members of the Legislature at the time, from former Governor Torres' administration, to put together Customs Biosecurity and Divisions on Quarantine under Department of Finance, Division of Customs, and right now Biosecurity. And this legislation is a vehicle to bring it in full circle to make sure that even our brothers and sisters that we ask, they work tirelessly, the quarantine folks are... Now there is a clear definition or mandate as far as their responsibility in the overall scheme of Customs and Biosecurity Division under Department of Finance. So, I respectfully ask the members to please endorse this so it can make its way to the House for their review and hopefully their approval. *Si yu'us ma'ase*, Mr. President, and I yield back.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any more discussion? Ready?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(SCR 24-78 on SB No. 24-48)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-78 is hereby adopted by the Senate. If there are no further objections by the members, I would like to move to the Bill Calendar and dispose of Senate Bill No. 24-48.

BILL CALENDAR:

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: No objection, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: No objections. Recognized Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adoption of Senate Bill No... Sorry, I move for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-48, “To establish a Division of Customs and Biosecurity within the Department of Finance for the purposes enforcing all laws at the ports of entry, and that is responsible for the inspection and clearance of containers, cargo, baggage related to customs and biosecurity at the ports of entry, and other matters related to border security.”

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-48 and has been seconded. Discussion by any of the members? Ready? Clerk please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(SB No. 24-48)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight (8) members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-48, hereby passes the Senate. Going back to the beginning of the budget, or even, sorry, the agenda. You can tell where my mind's at. Messages from the Governor, agenda Item D. Recognize the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have two. Governor's Communication No. 24-256 regarding Rota Local Law 24-10 [and] Governor's Message No. 24-257 regarding Public Law 24-31.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Comments by the members? Recognized Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a short comment on Governor's Message No. 24-257. Again, I want to thank the Governor for his action in signing Senate Bill No. 24-19 into law, which is now Public Law 24-31. Which really again, all it does is remove the term legal resident. Some may see this as a way to bypass certain federal regs., but in actuality this just, it, many may see it as an economic opportunity for the CNMI. It opens the door for more individuals to attain their licenses. This in no way would affect any issues people may see with voter registration fraud. This is only a one-year driver's license, not like a real ID. And it would allow for purchases of vehicles and drivers to be insured regardless of their status here in the CNMI. Again, it also provides for safer streets for people and the insurance that may come from any accidents that are caused with motorists on the road. And so again, thank you to the Senate for their support and the House as well, and again, to the Governor for signing this into law. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. Moving on [to] Item E, nothing from the Communications from the Judiciary.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY:
NONE

Nothing from Communications from Heads of Executive Departments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS:
NONE

Communications from the House, we have none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE:
NONE

Communications from the Senate. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE:

Clerk: We have one, Mr. President. Senate Communication No. 24-216.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. Any comments from the members? I would like to go on record as to say the hours that are being posted are going to be the hours that we're going to try to adhere to, but obviously the budget is coming up. There are several legislations that are being worked through between the House and the Senate. And I ask for everyone's patience and ability to come in when the time is required. But for the most part, we will do our best to adhere to the schedules that have been submitted. Moving on to Communications from the CNMI Delegate, there are none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE:
NONE

Unfinished business, there are none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
NONE

[Item] K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions, there are none.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:
NONE

Under L, Introduction of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions, I recognize Senator Paul.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Mr. President I'd just like to introduce this legislation which the Committee has been working on. So, I hereby introduce Senate Bill No. 24-62. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator. Any other member that have any bills, resolutions, initiatives for today? Being none, we'll move on to Item N, Reports of Special/Conference Committees. Clerk? I'm sorry. Short Recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:12 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:12 p.m.

I'll rise back, and we'll need to return, if there are no objections, I need to return to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (Cont.):

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to send back to Committee Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-72.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There there's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader and has been seconded. Discussion? Okay. All in [...]

Senator Paul A. Manglona: I just want to know the reason, because this is a good resolution, Mr. President. This is on the CUC and renewable energy, right?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Yes, sir.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Oh, the Committee wants it back?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: I'm... So, go ahead.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: All right. In our meetings with the CUC it was recommended, I think, that we continue to look through this joint resolution because it kind of contradicts a bill from the same author, the reasoning behind some of the actions of CUC. And so, if the author is recommending to apply certain things through this resolution, the bill kind of contradicts some of the arguments that are being made and the language within the resolution. And so, this joint resolution should be looked at, along with the House bill that came over and it's now in Committee, just to make sure that we get those language straightened out and so that it doesn't contradict each other.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. Discussion by any other member? Okay. So, moving on to Resolution Calendar. Recognize the Floor Leader.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. At this time, I move to adopt Senate Resolution No. 24-16, "To unequivocally reaffirm support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and to urge immediate and sustained international action to advance such participation in light of escalating public health, security, aviation, law enforcement, climate, and Indo-Pacific challenges."

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

Senator Celina R. Babauta: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: So, there's been a motion for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 24-16 and has been seconded. Discussion? None. All in favor for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 24-16 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Senate Resolution No. 24-16 is hereby adopted by this body. Short recess, please.

The Senate recessed at 12:15 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 1:14 p.m.

Thank you, members. And we now rise back to Session. Before we proceed we were on agenda Item M, and the Floor Leader had offered a motion, and there was discussion to place Standing Committee Report or House Joint Resolution No. 24-11 back to Committee. And there was a motion that has been seconded. There was some discussion as to what the rationale behind the return to the Committee of the joint resolution, which the Floor Leader did articulate. So, with that all in favor of the motion say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? House Joint Resolution No. 24-11 is hereby returned to the Committee. Proceeding on to our agenda, Bill Calendar. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to... I move for passage House Bill No. 24-89, HS1 “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the 2nd Senatorial District.”

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. So there has been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-89 HS1, and has been seconded. Under discussion. Recognized Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'åse*, Mr. President. I formally introduce an amendment to the legislation to which everyone received. You should have a copy of which, but if you wish that I read it out in verbatim, I'll go right ahead, or...

President Karl R. King-Nabors: If you can just do an overview, a general overview of the main...

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President. Basically, it's further clarifying how the funds, should it become law, will be managed and used with respect to the intended legislation, directing it to, in this case the Mayor of Tinian and Aguigan, in response to the disaster relief or disaster recovery and relief operations and so forth. Yeah. So, I hereby offer this amendment on this particular legislation, and I respectfully ask the members to endorse it. I yield back, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Do I hear a second?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: So there has been a motion for the passage of, or f- I'm sorry, for some floor amendments offered by Senator Hofschneider. Under discussion. Ready?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(Floor Amendments for H.B. No. 24-89, HS1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With eight members voting yes, the amendments offered, the floor amendments offered by Senator Hofschneider are hereby adopted. Back to the main motion. Discussion?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Ready.

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

ROLL CALL
(H.B. No. 24-89, HS1, SD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-89, HS1 hereby passes the Senate in the form of Senate Draft 1. [Recognized] Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have House Bill No. 24-91, HS1 “To appropriate \$300,000.00 of the dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA) from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to fund Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel in the 1st Senatorial District.” I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There has been an offer, a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-91, HS1 and has been seconded. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I offer an amendment. And the amendments are hereby as follows, amending the title to include Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel, and adding for other purposes. Removing the “improve and maintain projects” to include, “to respond to Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster relief operations and personnel”, along with adding that similar language to line 7 on page 1. Additionally, on page 2, removing lines 1 and 2 and replacing that with, “is appropriated as follows: \$200k to fund Super Typhoon disaster relief operations and personnel in the First Senatorial District, and a \$100k for personnel operations for the Office of the Mayor of Rota according to an adopted resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation.” And then adding a

“Section 5, in which the funds appropriated shall be transferred within a reasonable time by CEDA to the Rota Municipal Treasury and that CEDA shall keep the funds under Section 2B in reserve for appropriation.” I'm sorry. Just A since the funds will be transferred over to the Municipal Treasury we added a Section 6 Reporting Requirement. The Mayor of Rota shall provide a monthly expenditure report to the Chairperson of the Rota Legislative Delegation. And a new Section 7, or which is now reprogramming the funds re-appropriate under Section 2(a) “shall not be reprogrammed unless approved by resolution by the Local Legislative Delegation.” So, moved, Mr. President.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. There's been a floor amendment, several four amendments offered by the Floor Leader on House Bill No. 24-91 HS1, and has been seconded. Any further discussions? Recognize Senator Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: The recess I think we had a short discussion on Part B on line 6. That be generalized to say “programs and services for the municipality.”

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: I think the understanding was to place that on the House Bill No. 24-96.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: If there's such an understanding, then I'm fine with that.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Manglona. Any other members? So, we'll go ahead and vote on the amendment. Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(Floor Amendments on H.B. No. 24-91, HS1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
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	Absent - Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-91 HS1 hereby passes the Senate in the form of SD1. Recognize... oh, I'm sorry. My, my apologies. Thank you, Clerk. That was on the main amendment, so now 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

(H.B. No. 24-91, HS1, SD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
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	Absent - Excused
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, now the Senate passes House Bill No. 24-91 HS1 in the form of SD1. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have House Bill No. 24-96 “To appropriate \$960,235.74 in Tobacco Settlement Funds, identified by the Governor as additional funds available for appropriation in Governor's Communication No. 24-103 in the House to the Marianas Visitors Authority for tourism recovery initiatives.” 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 offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of... I'm sorry. [House Bill No.] 24-96, and has been seconded. Under discussion. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I hereby offer an amendment starting with the title to remove “to the Marianas Visitors Authority for Tourism Recovery Initiatives”. And then on page 2, adding language, “The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth is confronting urgent and competing priorities that require the immediate reallocation of public resources. Although tourism remains vital to the economy, the Legislature determines that disaster recovery and the restoration of essential government services must take precedence where communities have suffered widespread damage. The Legislature finds that Super Typhoon Sinlaku caused significant destruction throughout the First, Second, and Third Senatorial Districts, disrupting municipal operations, damaging public infrastructure, and impairing local governments’ ability to provide essential services. Without immediate financial assistance, recovery efforts will be delayed, prolonged hardships for affected residents. The Legislature further finds that it is necessary and appropriate to redirect a portion of the funds previously identified for tourism-related purposes to address these urgent recovery needs. Such action reflects the Commonwealth's responsibility to prioritize public safety, community stability, and the restoration of government functions. The Legislature additionally affirms its constitutional obligation under Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to provide funding to the Public School System, particularly in times when disaster impacts threaten the continuity of education.” And then down, further down on page 3, line 18, “to support the recovery and operational needs of the First, Second, and Third Senatorial Districts, and to allocate twenty-five percent (25%) of the total appropriation to the Public School System, in accordance with constitutional requirements.” Moving on to page 4, under Appropriation, adding language starting with... on line 4, section 2(a), “\$240,058.94 to the Commonwealth or the CNMI Public School System. Expenditure authority shall be PSS commissioner. The PSS commissioner shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Presiding Officers of the Legislature upon the exhaustion of the funds appropriated under this Act. One hundred thousand...sorry, line (b) would be “\$100,000.00 for activities and programs in the First Senatorial District, according to an adopted resolution by the Rota Legislative Delegation.” Part (c), “\$100,000.00 for personnel and operations of the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan according to an adopted resolution by the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.” [Part (d)] “\$100,000.00 for the personnel and operations of the Office of the Mayor of Saipan, according to an adopted resolution by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.” Part (e), “\$50,000.00 for the operations of the Legislative Bureau (LB) of the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. The expenditure authority shall be the LB Director. The LB Director shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Presiding Officers of the Legislature upon the exhaustion of the funds appropriate under this Act.” Part (f), “\$370,176.80 shall be allocated to the Marianas Visitor Authority.” And then on page 5, line 2, adding the language, “The MVA Board of Directors Chairperson shall be responsible for reporting all expenses to the Presiding Officers of the Legislature upon the exhaustion of the funds appropriate under this Act.” Adding “Section 3, No Fiscal Limitation. The funds appropriate under Section 2 shall be without fiscal year limitation.” I offer this amendment, so moved.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. The Floor Leader has offered floor amendments as enumerated that covered all the different allocations to include expenditure authorities. Any other discussions? Ready? Recognize Senator Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: You {directed to Floor Leader} didn't mention that when you stated it.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Correct. I restated on part B. It'll be for the programs and activities of the First Senatorial District. Different from the language that was provided in the written report.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any other discussions? Ready to go? All in favor-- oh, I'm sorry. Clerk, please call the roll because this is an amendment.

ROLL CALL

(Floor Amendments on H.B. No. 24-96, HS1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all eight members voting “yes”, 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

(H.B. No. 24-96, HS1, SD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Clerk: Mr. President, all eight members voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-96 hereby passes the Senate in the form of Senate Draft 1. Moving on to the next item of agenda. Agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials and Miscellaneous Communications, Clerk.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 1, 24-95 from CHCC on FY 2027 for HNP.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Comments from the members? None?

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Chairman?

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

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Actually, I wanted to make an amendment in the prior bill to add even \$100,000.00 to address some of the Miscellaneous Communication No. 24-95 request. But I just want to put this out so that maybe some other future reprogramming, we can actually address the Health Network Programs' request. As this was a letter written April 20th to the President and the Speaker explaining the reduction actually in expenditure for Medical Referral. I think the CHCC has done a tremendous job in trying to fit this program under their funding. However, it's very difficult despite the tremendous cut that they put and as you probably feel in the community, people are calling us for assistance. And so, this is really a great reduction that they have already committed, but nonetheless still need some assistance. Just want to point that out. I hope the members can read Miscellaneous Communication No. 24-95 carefully. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any other comments? Moving on. Announcements?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Mr. President.

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

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Tentatively scheduled for Friday morning, the Fiscal Affairs Committee would be calling a committee meeting, short committee meeting, hopefully to address a couple of legislations before the Committee. And I will be making the appropriate announcement, possibly be trying to adjust with our schedule, the new schedule of the Legislature. But yeah, just be on the lookout. Yeah.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: I will also be sending out a memorandum for a Senate Leadership meeting for the same day, time to be determined. Now on to Item S, Adjournment. I recognize Senate Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

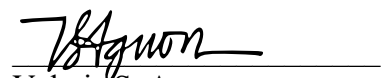
President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader to adjourn today's session subject to the call and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready. All in favor say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye"

President Karl R. King-Nabors: All opposed? We stand adjourned at 1:32 p.m. *Si yu'us ma'ase*, have a great weekend.

The Senate session adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie S. Aguon
Senate Journal Clerk