
THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION – 2026

SJ 24-29

1st Day

Monday, July 20, 2026

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on July 17, 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: Hereby call this 1st Day, Sixth Special session to order. Today is July 20th, and the time is 3:42 p.m. here at the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. It is my honor to welcome everybody here today and everybody watching on cable television Channel 23, the Senate's YouTube page, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. Before we begin, I kindly ask everyone to rise for a silent moment of prayer.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

And with that, Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(Attendance)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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, six (6) members present and three (3) members absent.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With six members present, we have the requisite number to proceed with today's Special session. Please let the record reflect that Senators Babauta, Senator Calvo, and Vice President Magofna are hereby excused from today's Special session. Also, please let the record reflect that Senator Paul [Manglona] is here joining us virtually from the beautiful island of Rota. Before proceeding on, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our Legislative Bureau staff assisting us with our Session here today. We have, to my left, our Legal Counsel, Antonette Villagomez; our Acting Senate Clerk, Mrs. Valerie Aguon; our IT Assistant, Mr. Delbert Camacho; our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Jonathan DeLeon Guerrero, handling our social media coverage; and our Youth Congress Coordinator, John Luis Castro; and also, our Senate Legislative Assistant, Mr. Devin Macaranas. And before we proceed on to our Public Comment, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our Floor Leader to make the requisite motions.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to suspend pertinent rules to amend the agenda to include Senate Bill No. 24-21, HD1 on today's Bill Calendar and to place House Joint Resolution No. 24-13 on today's Resolution Calendar.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: The Floor Leader has made a motion for suspension of pertinent rules and has been seconded. Discussion? To effectuate the suspension, I ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(S.B. 24-21, HD1 & H.J.R. 24-13)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all six (6) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, the pertinent rules have been suspended to allow for the communications, I’m sorry, for the bills to be placed on Bill Calendar as well as the resolutions. Moving on to Item C of our agenda, Reading and Approval of the Journal. I recognize... oh, I'm sorry. Before moving on to Item C, we have our Public Comment

section of our agenda. This is where we allow our public and the people here in attendance to allow them to provide any public comments as it relates to today's agenda. Again, please try to keep your comments to five minutes. Please say your name for the record and who you are representing, if not yourself. Public Comments is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Juan Iguel Tenorio: *Buenas tatdes, Presidente yan onorabli na membron i Senate. Na'an-hu si Juan Iguel Tenorio. Gaige yo guini gi menan miyu para baihu in kuenta i man ritirão, para baihu gagao-yi un dankolo na fabot yan supottasion para i House Bill No. 24-84. Kada kumahulo este na estoria pot i man ritirão yan pot este apas i 25% mampos hana fan puputi ham sa bula na man ritirão man inafekta nu eyi i payback gi overtime manma reduce esta i yoniha pension sa manma apapasi tatte ya yanggen tumaigi i este i 25% mas man mamadesi. Guini gi alacha na mitting guaha siha ritirão ilekniniha yan sienkasu na para hu tãigue este benti-sinko pot sientu guato gi apas niha i man ritirão, ilelekña na sumuha sais sentos pesos gi mes, pues esta pago ha komplalasi, ya yanggen ti pumosipble este ha komplalasi kao parahu na para yoña health insurance pot para una sina umapasi siha, dibin kareta, fahan nengkano yan apas utility, elektrisidã yan hanom. Pues, gaige yo guini para baihu gagao hamyo dangkolo na fabot ya ayudayi i man ritirão sa ma nisita todo i ayudu ni sina ma na'i. Pues, enao ha, Mr. President yan onorabli na Senadot na gaige yo guini para baihu gagao i supottasion miyu nu este i benti-kuatro ochentai-kuatro na bill. Hu tungo ha, yan hu komprende ha na ti nahong este na salape'. Lao, fino man'amko, "maolek ña dididi ya guaha ki ni bula ya taya." Pues again, I'm asking for your support; please help the retirees, thank you and good afternoon.*

Derek Sasamoto: Thank you Senate President, members of the Senate, for giving me this opportunity to speak in Public Comment. So, my name is Derek Sasamoto. I'm the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and I actually prepared my comments for a change this time. That's how important this is. So first of all, I would like to thank the Senate for entertaining Senate Bill No. 24-52, and I'd like to thank Senator Manny Castro for introducing this bill. Moreover, I would like to thank the Senate for its collaboration with CEDA and for its support of economic development, and I can attest to this. This bill will have long-lasting impacts and has the potential to change the landscape of the Marianas, and again, referring to Senate Bill No. 24-52. This bill will allow CEDA to carry out its economic development activities utilizing CEDA's dividend funds, which is the result of CEDA issuing out loans to other government agencies. Without the explicit authorization for CEDA to utilize its dividend funds for this purpose, CEDA will be unable to fulfill its mandate for economic development and recovery. Before I get further, I'll provide some background information. So CEDA, formerly CDA, was created by Public Law 22-01. This law placed the significant mandate of leading economic development in the Marianas on the newly created CEDA. We know this law was the result of the unprecedented downturn in our economy, and furthermore, multiple economic councils and official economic strategies recommended that such a law be passed as development efforts needed to be concentrated in one agency, which I definitely agree with. Public Law 22-01, however, did not formally identify a funding source for the newly created CEDA to carry out this new and significant mandate of economic development. Thus, an unfunded liability was created, and I'm pretty sure we all have learned from the past in terms of the substantial negative impacts that

unfunded liabilities can create. Of course, so look as was previously mentioned earlier, is the Retirement Fund. That's an example of an unfunded liability that had devastating impacts. Public Law 22-01 unfortunately created unfunded liability for CEDA in terms of fulfilling the mandate of economic development. Moreover, CEDA actually was informed by one of the authors, if not the author of Public Law 22-01, the CEDA bill, that the intent of this law was actually to utilize the CEDA Dividend Funds, and that makes perfect sense. Thus, Senate Bill No. 24-52 rightfully completes Public Law 22-01 by identifying the funding source to CEDA to fulfill its mandate. And this is an objective and beneficial bill. With CEDA at the lead of economic development, The Marianas seems to have generated significant investment interest in just one year of promoting The Marianas with a new and targeted marketing approach. CEDA has promoted The Marianas throughout the region and in the U.S. at the invitation of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Services. Due to these efforts, The Marianas may see the establishment of two new high-tech manufacturing industries here. We have the potential to create over 600 direct jobs and potentially over 1,800 indirect jobs, not including the construction jobs that are going to be created from the construction activities themselves. And again, this will all be potentially possible within a year or so. CEDA is pursuing other developers as well. We are not stopping at these two new industries. We are looking to change the dynamic of The Marianas by diversifying the economy, by establishing new industries in addition to tourism, creating jobs through these new industries and the follow-on supply chain businesses that will result. There will also be trickle-down effects as job creation brings people back and increases the population, the tax base, and the consumer base. With job creation, consumer spending will be stimulated, and as we know, the spark to consumption is the key to recovery. The spark to consumption will then provide businesses with the resources and demand to revitalize operations. This will stimulate not only job creation, but importantly as well, job retention as existing businesses benefit from the increase in consumer spending power, consumption, and activity from these developments. However, CEDA cannot achieve these mandated objectives, and I say that with sincerity, without the use of its Dividend Funds, its source of funding the intended source of funding, our Dividend Funds. We have all been working-- we have all been wanting, this community has been wanting new industries, jobs, and diversification. We are now on the verge of having this. We are making real impact towards this possibility. I cannot fathom a reason why this bill would not be supported, as economic development and recovery will benefit everyone, public and private as a whole. The bill has the potential to create real and long-term impact to the community. It has the impact to change the economic future of The Marianas in perpetuity. And The Marianas has a lot to offer investors, and we need to continue leveraging these advantages and continuing the momentum we have built up in the past year. Therefore, I thank the Senate again, and I sincerely hope everyone realize the potential this bill has for our future and that this bill passes. Thank you very much.

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

Dr. Jack Angelo: Good afternoon Senate President, Honorable Members of the Senate. I come here only in thanks for bringing House Bill No. 24-84 to the floor for consideration for passage. I do appreciate your support for the retirees. Sincerely, *si yu 'us ma'ase'*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Dr. Angelo.

Jean Paul B. Reyes: Good afternoon, *Håfa adai, yan Tirow*, Honorable Senate President Karl King-Nabors and Honorable Senate members of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. For record purposes, 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 on today's scheduled Senate session. 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 Francisco Q. Cruz, for the time and effort you've all put into evaluating and examining the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's nominee. This afternoon, you'll be entertaining Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-93, the Executive Appointment of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member for the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Because of the unforeseen timely schedule of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela's Senate confirmation, he has acknowledged his absence and asked to be excused as he escorts his wife for an off-island medical appointment. Nevertheless, Mr. President, your relentless time and effort on entertaining and confirming our nominee and is an essential step forward as the administration finalizes the vacancies for all boards and commissions. Once again, honorable Senate President King-Nabors and honorable members of this esteemed Senate body, Governor David M. Apatang and Lieutenant Governor Dennis James C. Mendiola extends their sincere appreciation for your generous and favorable consideration on behalf of our nominee who has accepted to continue his commitment to serving our great Commonwealth. Thank you. *Si yu'us ma'ase' yan ghilisow*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: *Si yu'us ma'ase'*, Mr. Reyes. Public Comment remains open. There being none, we'll go ahead and close Public Comment at this time. Moving on to Item C, on our agenda, Reading and Approval of the Journal. I recognize the Floor Leader.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Senate Journal No. 24-25 [24-24], 1st Day, First Special Session, dated April 7, 2026. We have Senate Journal No. 24-25, 1st Day, Second Special Session, dated April 24, 2026, and Senate Journal No. 24-26, 1st Day, Third Special Session, dated May 1, 2026. I move for the adoption of these journals.

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

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 adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-24 through 24-26, and has been seconded. Discussion? None. All in favor for the adoption of Journals No. 24-24 through 24-26, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? The Senate Journals No. 24 through 26 hereby is adopted by the Senate. If there are no objections from the members if we can just go to Standing Committee Report, Item M, number four of the agenda. No objections?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: No objections.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-93 from the Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee, reporting on the Executive Appointment of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and Public Sector. 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 offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-93 and has been seconded. Under discussion, I recognize Chairman of EAGI, Senator Francisco Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President. Can we have the Dr. Tudela if he's here to- He's not here. Not here? Okay, thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointment is ready to present Standing Committee Report No. 24-93, and this is the Executive re-appointment of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Your Committee on Executive Appointment and Investigation to which was referred the re-appointment of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector begs leave to report as follows. And after review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela's executive re-appointment to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Interim Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the re-appointment of Dr. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive re-appointment of Dr. Tudela'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 three oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which three hard copies of the testimonies were submitted during the 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 concern to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Dr. Tudela's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. The public hearing was conducted on May 28, 2026 in the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building. 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 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 re-appointment of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Region representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector, is in accordance with 3 CMC §1311. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents, representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Again, I ask this body to consider Standing Committee Report No. 24-93. Thank you, and I yield back, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Anyone else under discussions? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR 24-93 – Dr. Tudela NMC BOR)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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 six members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members present and voting “yes”, Standing Committee Report No. 24-93 is hereby adopted by the Senate, officially appointing Mr. Dr. Jesse M. Tudela to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents to representing the Third Senatorial District and the Public Sector. Congratulations. Now if we can go back to Item D on our agenda, Messages from the Governor. I recognize the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR:

Clerk: We have 42 items, Governor's Message No. 24-258 to 299.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Messages from the members. Any discussions? None. I do have some discussions point on Governor’s Communication No. 41 and 42, which is numbers 24-298 and 299 regarding the veto of appropriations of \$300,000 of dividends collected by the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority for the First and Second Senatorial to be used for [Super Typhoon] Sinlaku and [Super] Typhoon Bavi disaster relief personnel and operations. It's unfortunate that both of these appropriations were vetoed. This had gone through both the House and the Senate, also in Conference Committee. If the public would like to have more insight the veto message from the Attorney General in advising the Governor that both pieces of this legislation should be vetoed, is in direct contrast and opposition to the same message that the Attorney General provided the Governor regarding over \$5 million of CEDA dividends to be appropriated to the retirees and also \$1 million to assist with the Department of Finance's financial woes. And so, the Attorney General's veto message to the Governor, and subsequently was the veto message provided to the Legislature, was that this money is not capital improvement projects. That the source of this money was intended for that reason. And because of that, it runs afoul of the intention and the intent that is laid down through the statute that enables this money to be collected. However, that's the veto message when it comes to the First and Second Senatorials. That's the veto message that comes when we're trying to use this funding to piece together back the First senatorial, to try to put together back the Second Senatorial. The House Local Delegation, the Saipan Local Delegation, Third Senatorial, has been able to tap these CEDA funds, which is why Senator Castro has introduced a Senate bill to address this source of funding moving forward. But again, this is unfortunate because the message from the same entity, meaning the Attorney General, regarding two very similar appropriations have two very different outcomes. And we can only ask why. Why is there such a difference in the manner by which this money was withdrawn and given to the retirees to the tune of over \$5.2 million dollars? That's not personnel and operations, that's straight use. Cash to the accounts. But when we're asking to use these funds to rebuild our islands, it's not capital improvement. So, I just want to stress, my personal sadness, as it reflects the veto, and I know that Mayor Aldan from the Second Senatorial, as well as Mayor Aubrey, are working on a joint letter to ask the House to engage in dialogues to do an override on these funds as again, they're desperately needed. This is \$600,000 compared to the over \$6.2 million dollars that we've appropriated through these funds over the past two years through the Senate and through the House. I know we don't control the override. The overrides have to originate from the House from once they're introduced. So, I take this opportunity to ask my colleagues in the House to do what's right and to allow for the First and the Second Senatorial an opportunity to rebuild itself. Moving on, next item on the agenda, we have E, Communications from the Judiciary. There are none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY:
NONE

[Item] F, Communications from [the] Heads of Executive Departments. Recognize Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS:

Clerk: We have five (5) items on the agenda. Department Message No. 24-27 to 24-31.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Comments from the members? And just to clarify for the House Communication No. 4, 24-150, this is going to be accepted correct, by the Floor Leader? By the body? Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 4:11 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:12 p.m.

We now rise back to Session, and I recognize the Floor Leader. I'll recognize the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE:

Clerk: We have 13 items on the agenda, 24-147 to 24-159.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: And now I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President I'd like to amend my earlier motion, and instead of placing Senate Bill No. 24-21 on today's Bill Calendar, I move to accept House Communication No. 24-150... Senate Bill 24-21, HD1.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. There's been a motion to accept House Communication No. 24-150 which would accept Senate Bill No. 24-21 in the version of HD1, and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(Hse. Comm. No. 24-150 – S.B. No. 24-21, HD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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 six (6) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Communication No. 24-150 pertaining to Senate Bill No. 24-21 hereby passes the Senate in the form of HD1. Next item on the agenda, Communications from the Senate. I recognize the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 31 items on the agenda, Senate Communication No. 24-218 to 249.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion? Ready? On to Item I, Communications from the CNMI Delegate. There are none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE:

NONE

Item J, Unfinished Business. There are none.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

Item K, Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions. And starting off these resolutions, I recognize Senator Jude Hofschneider.

PRE-FILED BILLS, INITIATIVES, LOCAL BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, everyone. Formally introducing Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-08, and that is “To honor and commend Sergeant First Class Joel Ray San Nicolas Santos for his honorable service, dedication, and sacrifice to the United States Army and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” Also, on number 3, Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-05, “Expressing support for the development, study, and potential deployment of safe, resilient advanced nuclear energy technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in coordination with the United States Government.” Thank you, Mr. President. I yield back.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. And at this point I'd like to recognize Senator [Paul] Manglona from Rota for the introduction of his resolution.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Mr. President, I'd just like to formally introduce Senate Resolution No. 24-17 on “Respectfully petitioning the U.S. [Congress and the President of the United States] to restore and expand federal compensation and health programs for individuals exposed to radiation resulting from the U.S. nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific, [including the people the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.]” Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Chairman Manglona. And now I recognize Senator Manny Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Thank you, Mr. President. Formally introducing Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-09, “Recognizing and commending the Department of Corrections officers and inmates for outstanding service, humanitarian assistance, and community support during Super Typhoon Sinlaku disaster response operations in Saipan.” introduced by myself.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Castro. Then moving onto our Standing Committee Reports. I think we've squared those away. On to Item N, Reports of Special and Conference Committees. There are none.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:

NONE

Resolution Calendar. Recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Mr. President, may I respectfully request that we go back to Item L?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Oh, okay. No problem. No objections from the members? No objections. Okay. Going back to item L, Introductions of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills, and Resolutions. I recognize Senator Hofschneider. Thank you.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President and for those people that are here. I have a Senate Resolution No 24-18, and a Senate Resolution “Respectfully requesting the Governor of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands and the Attorney General to petition the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to consider the recovery of alleged overpayments of retirement pension benefits from retirees, and to seek waivers and equitable relief for affected retirees.” And Mr. President if we're comfortable to place this into our Resolution Calendar, I would really appreciate it. Not because it is my resolution, but for the last three Legislature, respective members of the Senate have introduced legislation to pass a law to address what Mr. John Tenorio was reflecting earlier, was alluding to earlier about paybacks of some of those alleged overpayments. And not to the retirees' fault, but to the guidance that they were provided from the staff of the former Retirement Fund, and then they are now burdened to pay back those overpayments. I did a little bit of my research, and also did my due diligence, and I reached out to the Settlement Fund and they advised that even if we pass any law contrary to what the District Court has rendered a decision of, it wouldn't hold any water. So, the best option is to ask the Chief Executive and his Chief Legal Counsel, that when they go back to status conference with regards to the Settlement Fund, this is one of the issues that they should bring before the District Court to move forward from this and, provide a relief and reprieve for the people that were asked, not through their fault, but they were asked to pay back something that were, allegedly misinformed with a lack of a better explanation. Mr. President, so again, I respectfully, *yanggen siña ma pega este gi* Bill Calendar, I would really appreciate it. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: No objections from the members? Recognized Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: At this time, Mr. President, with no objections, I move to place Senate Resolution No. 24-18 on today's Resolution Calendar.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

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

The Senate recessed at 4:20 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

We now rise back. And with that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, I apologize. I would like to withdraw my earlier motion and instead offer to amend today's agenda to include Senate Resolution No. 24-18, and to place Senate Resolution No. 24-18 on today's Resolution Calendar, so moved.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been two motions offered placed by the Floor Leader. One to place 24-18 Resolution on today's agenda, and also to place it on Resolution Calendar. For both, I'd like the Clerk to please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(Place S.R. 24-18 on agenda and Resolution Calendar)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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 six (6) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Resolution No. 24-18 is hereby been placed on today's agenda and been placed on today's Resolution Calendar for action. Moving on to agenda Item M, Reports of Standing Committees. I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-79. The Judiciary, Government, and Law Committee recommends the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-45 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 been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee [Report No.] 24-79 regarding Senate Bill No. 24-45 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? All in favor for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-79 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-79 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Moving on to... we have nothing under N, Reports of Special Committee and Conference Committee Reports.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEES:
NONE

Resolution Calendar, I recognize the Floor Leader.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, first off, we have Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-08, “To honor and commend Sergeant First Class Joel Ray San Nicholas Santos for his honorable service, dedication, and sacrifice to the United States Army and the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.” I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-08 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? All in favor of the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-08 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-08 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Next up we have Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-09, “Recognizing and commending the Department of Corrections officers and inmates for outstanding service, humanitarian assistance, and community support during the Typhoon Sinlaku disaster response operations in Saipan.” I move for its adoption.

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 adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-09 and has been seconded. Under

discussions? Ready? All in favor for the adoption of Senate Commemorative Resolution No. 24-09 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Senate Commemorative Resolution 24-09 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-05, “Expressing support for the development, study, and potential deployment of safe, resilient advanced nuclear energy technologies, including small modular reactors and microreactors within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in coordination with the United States Government.” I move for its adoption.

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 adoption of Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-05 and has been seconded. Under discussion. Any members? Ready? All those in favor of the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-05 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Senate Joint Resolution No. 24-05 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Senate Resolution No. 24-17, “Respectfully petitioning the United States Congress and the President of the United States to restore and expand federal compensation and health programs for individuals exposed to radiation resulting from the United States nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific, including the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. 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 offered by the Floor Leader for Senate Resolution No. 24-17 and has been seconded. Discussion by the members? Ready. All those in favor of the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 24-17, say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Senate Resolution No. 24-17 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Floor leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: And lastly, on our Resolution Calendar, we have Senate Resolution No. 24-18, “Respectfully requesting the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Attorney General to petition the United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands to reconsider the recovery of alleged overpayments of retirement pension benefits from retirees and to seek waivers and equitable relief for affected retirees.” I move for its adoption.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 24-18 and has been seconded. Under discussion. Ready? All in favor for the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 24-18, say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? Senate Resolution No. 24-18 is hereby adopted by this body. And for the Floor Leader for the last one, the House Joint Resolution.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, yes, we have the House Joint Resolution No. 24-13, “To affirm the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' commitment to eliminate the commercial facilitation of birth tourism as evidenced by the enactment of the Business Integrity and Regulation of Tourism Harms Act, otherwise known as the (“BIRTH Act”); to present updated data demonstrating the effectiveness of existing federal and local measures; and to request continued federal coordination consistent with those efforts.” I move for its adoption.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-18 and has been seconded. Under discussion. Ready? All in favor for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-18 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? House Joint Resolution No. 24-18 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Moving on to the agenda, Bill Calendar. I'm sorry, 24-13. My apologies. Please correct the record for that. Moving on to the Bill Calendar. I recognize the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, at this time, I move for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-25, “To rename the “Guma’ Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice” building to the Elias Parong Sablan Guma’ Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe...45? Correction, 24-45, House of Justice in recognition of his long-standing contribution for the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”

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 Senate Bill No. 24-45, and has been seconded. Under discussion by the members. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SB No. 24-45)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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 six (6) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-45 hereby passes the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Short recess, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Short recess, members.

The Senate recessed at 4:29 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 4:29 p.m.

I'll rise back. And with that, I would like to once again recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Last on our Bill Calendar, we have House Bill No. 24-84, "To authorize the expenditure of \$2,105,563.00 identified by the Governor as a surplus from Fiscal Year 2025 revenues that shall be appropriated by the Legislature to the Public School System and to the 25% Retirees' Pension Obligation." I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. There has been a motion for the passage of House Bill No. 24-84, and has been seconded. Under discussion, I recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you to everyone that's here today, and of course, the ones that are watching. We are here today to entertain this request for the purpose of ensuring continued payouts of the whole retirement pension for at least for the remainder or for the amount that is appropriated. It would have been even more meaningful, if we bring this into full circle and allow it all the way up to the end of the Fiscal year. But, the Secretary of Finance had provided the needed certification of funds of approximately \$2.1M, but of that, half a million dollars, \$500,000.00 would go to the Public School System based on the heading of the bill. The \$1.5 will take the retirees to make them whole at least for the next month and a half or so, about a month. But, I also wanted to advise that they're still short to get you whole until September 30, 2026. We are hoping that we can find additional funds so that we can, like what the younger generation call it, we can park this issue at least all the way to September 30th. But unfortunately, that's not been the case today. But we're here with our commitment, as mentioned over the last several days, and again through our meetings, that we want to make sure that we deliver this particular request so that you all can go home with a sigh of relief knowing that we're almost there. But I want to thank the retirees for joining us today, and also for airing your concerns constantly through your meetings, and also for coming over and visiting the Senate last week. So again, Mr. President, thank you so much, and I yield back to you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any other members? If there are none I would like to just share a couple of my thoughts. I too would like to thank the retirees for their patience. The meeting that we had regarding this funding source that you all attended was very helpful for us and very enlightening. We do know that times are hard for everybody. Of course, it hits the retirees very differently as many of you don't have another revenue stream to tap into to deal with all of the increases in adjustments and commodities and fuel in CUC. This is not lost on us. All of us in here have retirees, whether they're directly our parents, aunties and uncles. This isn't a "us versus you" thing. This is really an effort for us to try to help get the funds that you need in your pockets. As Senator Hofschneider, Chairman of Fiscal Affairs alludes to, and as Dave

Demapan had gone through the numbers in the meeting last week, it is the Senate's contention and position that this specific activity was adequately funded. And we have made efforts to understand why there's such a big discrepancy between the numbers that we have and the numbers that are being furnished to us. And so, we will do our due diligence to try to identify what the gap is as it relates to that funding source, and hopefully we can make the whole 25% and find your one million dollars. So, if there are no other discussions by the members, I recognize Senator Paul. Thank you.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. *Finene'na si Yu'us ma'ase' para si Chairman Jude, Fiscal Affairs Chairman yan i miembro siha. Hågu, Mr. President yan i ritiråo siha lokkue nai man hanao hulo' ya makuentotosi i miembro siha. Si Yu'us ma'ase' nai ta kontinua sumapotta mo'na siha i ritiråo. Baihu sangan taiguini na guåhu uno ritiråo yu' nu ti chule' yo'ku pension ti ma apapasi yu' gi Senate, lao ti guahu ha, buenti guaha lokkue' otro siha miembro. Lao ti enao na kumekuentos yu' pago, kumekuentos yu' pot i pumalu siha na ritiråo nai ta hungok ha si Mr. Juan Tenorio nai ilekña na mampos man masasapet siha i ritiråo kanna ti manasisiña ma apasi tatte eyi siha i back pay na requirement, iyo' niha health insurance, i car payment, utility payment, mampos makkat espesiatmente på'go na tiempo. Malagu-ha yu' baihu chule' este na opottunidåt para baihu sangan taiguini na hu diseseha mohon na i manehante siha i administradot uma komprende na i choice ti between 25% and 100%. Malagu-ha yu' na hu guaha kinomprendi na hunggan 75% man garentia gi Settlement Fund. Lao taimanu i pumalu na budget item yanggen ta atan i budget resources gi Commonwealth for the Fiscal Year taya guini na budget item ma garentia 100% or 90% or 75% or 60%. Lao yanggen mu menos i revenue, ta eksamina ya ilek-ta, maila ya ta cut i budget 10% across the board. Well, maila ya ta cut i empleao 8 hours. Pues malagu yo na hu guaha kinomprendi na yanggen matto para hu ma uttot i ritiråo, basta enao i 25%. Yanggen para ta uttot empleao, pues uma'uttot i retirees balin ocho oras kao 10% enao. Sa mas makkat este siha ritiråo yanggen un na menos i pension niha para hu fan hanao ya hu fan man espia otro cho'cho' para uma replace i manma'uttot-niha ti parehu yan i manhoben nai. Pues, while guaha ma guarantee 75%, ti ilelek-ña na i Finance or i Retirement Fund. Enao ha i yoniha choice i 25% ta cut. Siña, ma cut 5% or mana parehu yan i empleao siha. Lao munga mohon mana parehu sa mas makkat i man'amko-ta siha. Pues esta man malalangu, bula iyo niha health issues. Pues para ta' uttot 25% instead of 10% or 5%. Enao ha, malagu yu baihu sangan gi taiguenao ya si Yu'us ma'ase', para i Chairman, ya hu komprende na i pusision-ña i Senate sigun ni manalisa i budget. Kinukkubre esta uttimon i sakkan. Guaha ti ena'komprende. Ya pot i para ta man hanao mona, ma aksepta na para ta pasa i 24-84. Ya guagua-ha tetelang-ña hinasoku na siña man ayudu nai yan i san papa na guma'. Ya ta atan etyo siha kuestion-ña i Chairman, si Senator Jude. Ya komu magahet na guaha debi salapeña enao or sino yanggen ti kabålis, then guaha iyo ta tiempo para ta address enao na issue. Enao ha, si Yu'us ma'ase' ni kinomprendi i Chairman yan i komiti siha. Thank you, Mr. President.*

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Paul. Any other members? And then with that, I'll go ahead and ask the Clerk to please call the roll.

ROLL CALL (HB No. 24-84)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Absent - Excused
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 six (6) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-84 hereby passes the Senate. On to agenda Item Q, Petitions, Memorials, and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 11 items. Miscellaneous Communication No. 24-96 to 24-106.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion by any of the members. There being none, we'll move on to Announcements. Announcements by any of the members?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to comment on the Joint Resolution. I appreciate the members' support. I do want to inform formally, now that we have entertained the Joint Resolution requiring the study. I would like to ask the PUTC Chair if we can conduct a public meeting throughout the CNMI in the next couple of weeks or schedule throughout the CNMI, or as soon as we can get the response from the experts and the people that have actually know the intricacies and are knowledgeable about the matter so that the community can be well-informed as to what the intent of that particular study request. I will be notifying you, Mr. President, and of course respectfully ask the Chair to work with my office to bring this before the public. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any others? Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Just want to take a short moment of your time to just acknowledge and appreciate, thank everyone who has shared their thoughts and prayers for our people of Rota. Especially the nonprofits that have been out there on Rota

assisting our people recover and all the contributions they've made to our community. We still have volunteers on island, as well as federal officials conducting assessments, and we want to, again despite the harsh conditions that usually comes after a typhoon where it's hot and there's still no power, communication is still lacking, we want to thank them for their patience and understanding. And again, to everyone who have contributed to the recovery efforts of Rota, thank you so much. We stand with our brothers and sisters on Tinian and Saipan as they also try to rebuild and recover. And with that, I just want to, again, thank everyone who have kept us in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. Recognize Senator Manglona.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: *Baihu na kadada, Mr. President. Lökkue hu ekstentende in kuenta di manatao mami guini giya Luta. Hu tungo 'ha na Saipan, Tinian, mo fo 'na man mamadesi lao hami guini gi uttimo mas, si Yu'us ma'ase' para lökkue etyu man gaige siha Estados Unidos, man gaige Guam yan otro lugat siha ni mapos man animosu, man-mangolek ya man hanao magi ayudu para todos i mañe'lo-ta Saipan, Tinian, ni gi dipattementu, giya gobietnomentu siha. Si Yu'us ma'ase', mampos meggai na pinadesi ya taya palabra ni mas siña taimano bai'in sangani hamyo, dankolo na si Yu'us ma'ase'.*

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Manglona. Any other members? Ready? And with that, I'll go ahead and recognize the Floor Leader for the 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 to adjourn subject to the call of the Chair and has been seconded. All in favor for the adjournment, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed, say nay. This Senate Session will stand adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

The Senate session adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie S. Aguon

Senate Journal Clerk