
THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



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In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on July 29, 2026 that the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official Session Call, and the Session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.net

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Good afternoon everyone. I hereby call this 1st Day, Seventh Special Senate session to order. Today is July 30, 2026, the time is 3:33 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. I also want to welcome everybody watching on Channel 23, on the Senate YouTube's page, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. Before we proceed any further, can I kindly ask that we all rise for a moment of silent prayer?

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Before we proceed on with the roll call, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce our Legislative Bureau staff assisting us with our Session here today. We have our Legal Counsel, Mr. David Karch; our Acting Senate Clerk, Mrs. Valerie Aguon; our IT Manager, Mr. Jonathan Diaz; our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Jonathan DeLeon Guerrero; our media assistant, Mr. Luis John Castro; and our Legislative Assistant, Mr. Devin Macaranas. With that, I'd like to ask the Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(Attendance)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo

Absent - Excused
Present

Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	<i>Este guihá</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 [are] present and two (2) [three] are absent.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With six members present, we have the requisite number to proceed with today's Session. Please let the record reflect that Senator Calvo is online, but he is away from his workstation right now. Also, let the record reflect that Senators Babauta and Magofna are hereby excused from today's Session. Before we proceed to Public Comment, I would like to recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move to suspend pertinent rules to amend today's agenda to include House Joint Resolution No. 24-15, Standing Committee Report No. 24-96, and to place House Joint Resolution No. 24-15 on today's Resolution Calendar.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion for the suspension of rules to place the items on today's agenda for disposal and has been seconded. Discussions? Ready? All in favor for the motion, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? The suspension of rules is hereby passed. Back to the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: I yield at this time Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. Now moving on to Public Comments. This is a section of our agenda where we allow the public to provide comments on any of today's agenda items. Before we begin, please state your name and who you're representing, and please try to keep it within five minutes. Thank you. Public Comments is now open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Joanna Aquino: Good afternoon. My name is Joann Aquino, and I'm here on behalf of the Office of the Governor. Good afternoon, *Hafa Adai*, and *Tirow*, Honorable Senate President Karl King-Nabors and Honorable Senate members of the 24th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature. For the record, my name again is Joann Aquino, Special Projects Coordinator 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 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. Your relentless time and effort on entertaining and confirming our nominee 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 have accepted to continue her commitment to serving our great Commonwealth. Thank you, *si Yu'us ma'ase*, and *ghilisow*.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mrs. Aquino.

Michael Ernest: Good afternoon. My name is Michael Ernest, and I work for CUC. I'm here today to speak about House Bill No. 24-107, HD1, which is listed on the agenda under the Communications from the House, I believe. The genesis of this bill, as we all know, there was a devastating typhoon, two recently, and we're trying to recover from that. There're still thousands of our customers who are not on the grid. In order to continue the restoration, plain and simple, we need funds. In typhoons past, the central government has, I believe, fronted the upfront money for the poles and the transformers, the wire, etcetera. This time that's not happening. CUC has been left totally to its own devices. Whatever we have is whatever we have, and that's it. We're not asking the Legislature for a gift. We're not asking you for the \$40M we need. What we're asking you is for permission to get the money we need to continue the restoration. That's it. That's all we need, is an authorization to go out and secure loans and lines of credit. Present law caps us at \$500K. That's not going to cut it. I've heard numbers upward of \$75M as being the cost of recovery just for Sinlaku. So, obviously, CUC needs to generate some capital quickly. We worked with the House. The House came up with this bill. They passed the bill. We took the bill to a potential lender to get their thoughts on, hey, is this going to work? Cause there's really no point in us doing an RFP if no one's going to respond or if the terms are going to be outrageous. And they had certain concerns, and the first concern was they wanted an absolute waiver of sovereign immunity. And I'm not speaking just for this potential lender. We didn't speak in specific terms at all. This was more generally just about what would make a lender comfortable. And they came back with basically four things, but the two most important ones were the waiver of sovereign immunity and identified specific collateral. They also wanted the full faith in credit of the CNMI, but even that wasn't enough. Beyond that, they wanted specific collateral that they could use as security. We put up as collateral every hard asset we had. Do you want our generators? Some of our generators are forty-seven years old. Nobody wants our generators. Nobody wants our telephone poles, and nobody wants our power lines. So, the types of collateral these lenders want are dedicated streams

of income or specific cash assets or specific accounts, be it an asset or a liability, that CUC controls or manages or has as an asset or a liability. Without those two things, this bill is frankly pointless because we would not get the loans we need from, at least from the lenders that we were talking to. So, we would be grateful if the Legislature could certainly add the waiver of sovereign immunity, the full faith and credit of the CNMI government, and if the Legislature could identify some specific assets or income streams that CUC could post as collateral for the loan, we would be very grateful. Again, I know the community is watching this. CUC does not benefit from this at all. This doesn't go into my pocket or anyone's pocket. This is to recover from the storm. This is to buy poles and to fix holes in our buildings that house our generators. This is for the conduit for our distribution system. This is just so we can get back to business serving the people of the Commonwealth. That's our job, that's what we're supposed to do, and that's what we're trying to do, but that's what we cannot do anymore without the help of the Legislature. So, at this time, I would ask respectfully the Senate to consider amending House Bill No. 24-107, HD1 to make it more friendly for potential lenders as we start an RFP process. The RFP process will be public, will be transparent I've been told. And again, this isn't some gift to CUC. This is what we need. If we can give our lenders security, the rates, the interest rates that they charge us will be lower. If we pay lower interest rates, that's less that we have to charge our customers. So, this is actually a gift for the consumers, if you think about it like that. If you take steps to allow CUC to obtain financing at the best terms, that's less money that we will have to pass on to our rate payers. So, this is not a gift for CUC. This is a gift for the entire Commonwealth, and we would ask for your favorable consideration of some changes to this bill. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Counsel.

Betty G. Terlaje: Good afternoon. Good afternoon, Honorable Senate President and members of the Senate. My name is Betty Terlaje, and I am the Chief Financial Officer of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, known as CUC. On behalf of CUC, I want to express our sincere appreciation to the Senate, as well as the House of Representatives, for the leadership and action on House Bill No. 24-107 and for recognizing the importance of providing CUC with the financing authority urgently needed to support the restoration as a result of the disaster from the last two super typhoons, Sinlaku and Bavi. We especially appreciate the Senate's careful consideration of the bill and the proposed amendments made to strengthen it. These amendments provide CUC with greater flexibility and put us in a much stronger position to successfully secure a loan or line of credit, negotiate more favorable financing terms, and ultimately reduce the overall cost of borrowing. We recognize that granting CUC financing authority is a significant decision that you have to make, and we are grateful that both chambers have recognized the urgency of our situation and the importance of giving CUC the financial tools necessary to continue moving the Commonwealth's utility restoration forward. The Senate's willingness to work with CUC, understand our financial challenges, and make improvements to the legislation demonstrates leadership and a commitment to finding a workable solution for the Commonwealth. Today, there are still approximately 4,000 customers combined across Saipan, Tinian and Rota that are still without electricity. These are families, businesses, and members of our community who continue to wait for their power to be restored. CUC remains fully committed to restoring electricity to every customer still waiting, and this financing authority will provide us with an important tool to continue and accelerate that work.

Our goal is to obtain the financing we need at the lowest possible cost and with the least possible financial impact on our residential and commercial ratepayers. Every effort will be made to structure the financing responsibly so that the burden of disaster recovery is not simply passed on to our customers. As I have said before, this has been a Commonwealth-wide disaster and recovery requires a Commonwealth-wide response. House Bill No. 24-107 represents an important step toward providing CUC with the financial resources necessary to complete the restoration and continue providing essential services to the people of the Commonwealth. We sincerely thank the Senate President, Senate Leadership, and members of this body for recognizing the urgency of the situation, for strengthening this legislation, and most importantly, for taking meaningful action to help CUC and the people we serve. I respectfully urge all members to support House Bill No. 24-107 in its amended form. Once again, thank you for your leadership, your action, your support, and your commitment to the Commonwealth. *Si Yu'us ma'ase'.*

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mrs. Terlaje.

Kevin Watson: Hello. Thank you, Senate President and Senators. My name is Kevin Watson, the Executive Director for CUC. I want to thank you for your leadership, for bringing this forward again and want to express my full support in House Bill No. 24-107. We have over 4,000 customers that deserve power, that are waiting in the dark, waiting for us to collaborate and come together to see that this bill passes, that we can take out a line of credit and help expedite recovery. We've been forced in the last couple weeks to reduce our efforts due to the lack of funding, and this bill, if and when it passes, will allow CUC to expedite our recovery efforts and help get the light back to our customers. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Mr. Watson. Public Comment is still open. No? With that being said, I'm going to go ahead and close Public Comments. And moving on to item... If there are no objections, I'd like to move forward to Item F on the agenda. No objections? And with that, I'll recognize the Floor Leader. I'm sorry. I'm sorry, [the] Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have one, House Communication No. 24-160. [Clerk forgot to include HJR No. 24-15 which was included by motion by the Floor Leader].

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President And this time I move to...Prior to placing it on Calendar, I move to suspend pertinent rules to be able to place House Bill No. 24-107 on today's Bill Calendar and for the members to act on it.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion made by the Floor Leader to place House Communication No. 24-160 on today's Bill Calendar for action, and has been seconded. Discussions? All in favor for the suspension of the rules, say "aye".

Members present voice "aye".

All opposed? Recognize Floor Leader. Oh, I'm sorry. Now we'll move on to item, I'm sorry. Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 3:52 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 3:54 p.m.

We now rise back. And with no objections, I'd like to go to the agenda Item L, Reports of Standing Committees. And I recognize the Floor leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-96 from the EAGI Committee on the appointment of Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District.

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. 24-96 and has been seconded. Under discussion, I recognize the Chairman of EAGI, Senator Cruz.

Senator Francisco Q. Cruz: Thank you Mr. President, and before I present the Standing Committee Report, I would like to be on record and Mr. President and members, I would like to apologize to former Senator Teresita Santos for submitting a letter on July 14, 2026, and was not mentioned during the public hearing on July 23, 2026. However, her letter is included in this report. At this time, I would like to present the Senate Standing Committee Report No. 24-96, and this is the executive appointment of Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District. Mr. President, your Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigation, to which was referred the appointment of

Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District, beg leave to report as follows. And after review and consideration of testimonies provided, your Committee recommends the confirmation of Ms. Sharon A. Manglona's executive appointment to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District. Pursuant to Rule 8, Section 5 of the Interim Rules of the Senate, it is the duty and purpose of your Committee to report to the Senate for legislative action pertaining to the appointment of Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District. Your Committee has examined all pertinent documents relating to the executive appointment of Ms. Sharon's overall credentials to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission. And in summation of all written and oral testimonies provided to the Committee, there are four oral testimonies in support of the Appointee, of which two hard copies of the testimony stated was submitted during the hearing. Eight written testimonies in support of the Appointee and no written or oral testimonies in opposition of the Appointee. Additionally, your Committee stated several recommendations, issues, and concerns to the Appointee that are included in this report. Therefore, based on the overall assessment of Ms. Manglona's credential, experiences, testimonies, and other relevant issues considered, your Committee respectfully recommends the confirmation of Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senator District. The public hearing was conducted on July 23, 2026, here 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 member of the Commonwealth Election Commission. And in conclusion, all required documents in conformance with Rule 8, Section 5 of the Intern Rules of the Senate have been submitted to your Committee for review and consideration. And based on submission of pertinent documents and testimonies, your Committee concludes that the executive appointment of Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senator District is in accordance with 1 CMC § 6102. Therefore, your Committee consents the confirmation of Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senator District. Again, I ask the full member of this body that are here in the chamber to kindly support Senate Committee Report No. 24-96. Thank you, and I yield back, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Cruz. On discussion, I'd like to recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. With respect to the work that the Committee has done, in which I am also a member of the Committee, I would like to just state my conflict of interest due to a familial relationship with the nominee, and so I will be abstaining from any vote on the nominee. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader Any other members? Ready. Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR No. 24-96 – Sharon A. Manglona – CEC)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, six (6) members voting “yes” and one (1) abstention.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With six members voting “yes”, we have the requisite numbers to formally adopt Standing Committee Report No. 24-96, officially confirming Ms. Sharon A. Manglona to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Election Commission representing the First Senatorial District. Congratulations. Moving on to the agenda. We'll go to, if there are no objections, we'll go to Resolution Calendar. And with that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

RESOLUTION CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, I move for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-15, entitled “To sincerely recognize and express deepest appreciation to Master Navigator Sesario Sewralur, honoring his extraordinary life, his unwavering dedication to preserving traditional Micronesian navigation, and his lasting contributions to the cultural heritage of the people of the Micronesia, and to extend heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.”

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 House Resolution No. 24-15 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? All in favor for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-15 say “aye”.

Members present voiced “aye”.

All opposed? House Joint Resolution No. 24-15 is hereby adopted by the Senate. On to Bill Calendar. I'll recognize Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have House Bill No. 24-107, HD1 "To authorize the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to obtain emergency financing for utility restoration, stabilization, and fuel procurement in response to Super Typhoons Sinlaku and Bavi and related fuel supply disruptions; and for other purposes." I move for its passage.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-107, HD1 and has been seconded. On to discussion, I'll recognize Senator Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Mr. President, I'd like to introduce an amendment in the form of House Bill 24-107, House Draft 1, or SD1.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by Senator Castro for the floor amendment on House Bill No. 24-107, HD1 in the form of Senate Draft 1, and has been seconded. Under discussion, I'd like to recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank the Chairman for allowing to have this amendment introduced for today's session. And I do also want to recognize the folks from CUC Management and all the hard-working staff have been doing through and through from Sinlaku recovery to now Bavi, and just the total dedication that they've expressed, and they've gone out to ensure that our people get their electricity and their water and their sewer, for that matter, back. And even though there are obvious challenges of the lack of liquidity in terms of their financing to be able to do all these things quicker than we are seeing now. I hope that this exercise today by this House will narrow the gap and finally realizing what has been a joint effort on many fronts from both house of the Legislature and, of course, with CUC management and staff. I wanted to state for the record not to read everything in verbatim of what the Chair had introduced, but I think one of the biggest ticket items here that the Senate is about to undertake is the omission of the pledge of security for any financing agreement pursuant to this proposal, to which it omits the requirement of the residential security deposit customers. It omits, meaning it

removed and only allows for the commercial and the government security deposit to be part of the pledge as liquid security or security for that matter. Also, Mr. President one new item that I wish to note for everyone here, and especially the one, the viewing public, is the, now page 13 of HD1 of § 82116, Line 14, under C, the Dividends. This legislation would commit that payment from CUC into CEDA, which we're going to use also as a pledge or a security deposit or another asset to be able to use to hopefully move forward with a line of credit with whatever financial institution. It will hopefully get us to the next level, and I believe that the Board of Directors and the management of CUC are closely monitoring the progression of this legislation as well as the people that we represent. And it is our hope that this product coming out from the Senate will eventually get us to the realization to get this bill to the Governor for his disposal. I want to thank the Chairman and his Committee and everybody else here, from Counsel and everybody else that partake in getting this bill forward for today's action. *Si Yu'us ma'ase'*, and I yield back.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. Any other members for discussion? Recognize [the] Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to bring up... and this was something that was discussed in the Leadership, and I bring this up now because we see the Executive Director and his staff and Legal Counsel joining us today. I think that, while we appreciate CUC's efforts in posting updates on their social media, I think there has to be a bigger discussion on what truly is a matter of the delay in their response to restoring a lot of the services. Every now and then we get updates that bucket trucks are here, engineers are here, but there's no true picture of what the response is looking like in terms of when we are going to see any percentage at all of when power will be restored. It's been 27 days since we've haven't had any power, and the only update we see are bucket trucks coming in, but there's no message going out from CUC as to what is truly the issue. Is it a funding issue? Is it if we pass this today, and the House accepts it, will we see some kind of extended services by our CUC personnel in order to restore these services? Or is there a larger problem that the community is not seeing? Is that the generator issue that we're experiencing? A lot of our people are in the dark. They continue to spend all their resources on fuel. Is there any communication with CUC and FEMA in terms of providing generators to our businesses to be able to provide the services, like laundry to our people? Those are the kind of things that we've haven't heard anything coming from CUC and what they're trying to do in trying to speed up the recovery process. I hear that from the reports and from the Executive Director that 4,000 people on Saipan, I think, are still waiting for power, and so Rota now joins that 4,000. And so, where's the message that provides some kind of, maybe understanding for people so that they can also plan out how their lives are going to look like for the next few days or weeks or months. Nothing like that is coming here. And so, I hope that with our vote today and with us supporting this legislation to be able to provide CUC with the financial stability that we see a much quicker response. But in the meantime, what can be done? I know I also brought up with the Leadership that while we saw the suspension of overtime pay, is there any workaround in terms of having our employees be able to maybe earn recovery pay instead of overtime? What are the challenges there, and how do we address that? And so, I hope that all of that can be looked at and we try to push out as much information out to our people so that, they don't have to wait around and feel helpless. And I just want to share that. I know the President has shared some of his updates, and I just wanted to express the concerns of our people prior to taking any action on this legislation. And so, thank you, Mr. President. I'll yield for now.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Floor Leader. I'd like to recognize Senator Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Castro: Thank you Mr. President. I'd just like to, as the Chairman of the Senate PUTC, clarify some of the misinformation that's going out there. The Senate PUTC and the Senate in general, we had an emergency session about a month ago, and that was specifically to address this issue, and a package was sent. We amended a House bill because it was the fastest way to help the community which is normal. It's done. It's all in line. We amended that House bill so that, CUC can get the resources they need to energize our community as soon as possible, and then some. It's unfortunate that there's a lot of noise out there, misinformation but the reality of the fact is what we're trying to do here is really leverage available resources. And that month of bickering, it caused more delay, right? We could have been getting reimbursements from FEMA by getting the materials that's needed, transformers, utility poles. And even more the issue is even bigger now because even now we're looking at also Rota and, we want to make sure those resources get to our brothers and sisters on Rota. So, this bill is not... there's no ulterior motive or anything, and it makes perfect sense because the whole intent of CEDA is to help with infrastructure. And so, I see this giving CUC the ability to leverage available financing is going to help with that regard. Because the alternative by not doing so is just going to increase costs even more. And it shouldn't be our role in the Legislature to micromanage lenders, micromanage agencies. That's why we have boards at the different autonomous agencies. They're supposed to do their due diligence, and a lot of the board members are very credentialed they're a good mix of board members. Let's please, let's help [send] a message to our counterparts. Let's focus on the issue at hand, and the issue is cash flow, and CUC needs it so that they can help our community. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Castro. Recognize Senator Paul Manglona from Rota.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. *Fine 'ne'na baihu na 'i dankolo na si Yu'us ma'ase' hao*, Mr. President, *yan iyo'ta* Chairman *si* Senator Jude Hofschneider. *Ha* mention *si* Chairman Castro *pot i* Senate *nei* *ma-replace i* House Bill No. 22-88 *pot para hu* *mana* *guaha* *este* \$40 million. *Hinasoku na i* Chairman *gi* Senate *ha cho'gue enao sa ti siña i* Senate *man* *introdusi* appropriation measure. *Pot i animosuña nai para u na'hanao mo'na este i* loan instrument authorization *na ha cho'gue' enao*. *Lao maolek sa man magomprendi* *lokkue' manga'chong-ta gi san papa' na guma'*. *Ya nu insigidadas* *mana guaha iyo niha* Emergency Session *nai para hu* *ma'daggao hulo' i* House Bill No. 22-107. *Hu atan na i* positive side, *guaha* cooperation that we're trying to move forward. *Magahet na guini giya Luta mampos makkat i pinadesi* *lokkue'*. *Mampos ha sa atan-ha esta mas ki dos simana ni este* typhoon *sa taya tarabiha ni uno na guma' o'on iyo niha* power. According to *i* Deputy Executive Director *guini giya Luta*, *si* Mr. Alvin King, *siña benti agupa' mana'on i* generator for the first time. *Ya ginen hao siña matto*, couple miles *hulo' esta sontun ya enao ha siña ya ni espitat ti un i na'on trabiha sa guaha nisisita gi para hu* *macho'gue lao, i punto guini anai mankuentus'ham ya ni CUC esta pa'go taya man overtime gi CUC*. *Ti mana'fan overtime i empleao ya hola mohon na ti macho'cho'gui este nai CUC pot para uma'enfesisa i dankolo' na nisisitat niha para hu ma-pasa este na* House bill. *Hunggan ta gof nisisita este lao, munga por fabot CUC para ta fanhugando guini in the sense na ti tana'fan overtime i taotao*. *Nahong-ha anai mampos i pinadesi* *Guåhan yan Saipan yan Tinian ya ti siña man hanao magi guini giya Luta, i empleao CUC para fan man akudi sa bula* *lokkue' che'cho-niha gi enao*

hulo'. Pues, the more reason na debi tana'fan macho'cho' i empleao CUC giya Luta overtime, sa nispoku dos simana na overtime esta mohon siña-ha ma' clear hulo' didide' i meggai na problema para Sinapalo. Kosa ki nu sinesedã mo'na nu este na loan. Lao esta pago' taya overtime ya we need manpower, ya man available este na manpower. Pues, I think na siña-ha man a'komprende yan i empleao ya hu fanmacho'cho'gue empleao, hu fan ma'apasi overtime maseha kontatki gi halom dos meses u fan ma'prometi na pot ma'apasi na overtime niha. But we need manpower today kosa ki hu fan on, u fan ma'repair i telephone poles, yan i lines siha, yan i weather head. Lao yan 4:30 man off, yan Sabalu, taya cho'cho', Damenggo taya cho'cho', enague ti siña u komprende taimanu na mientras ta cho'cho'gi mo'na este na loan instrument, ta sedi fan ya fan overtime, kosa ki u guaha mas kannai. Enao ha'. Un dankolo' na si Yu'us ma'ase' lokkue' para i san papa na guma', nai mana guaha siha safeguards guini, reporting oversights, yan para hu guinada ya i taimanu masa-na este na salape ya tatkomu' komu guaha reimbursement ginen FEMA, federal grant, yan hafa na insurance u mana siguru na fine'ne'na u ma apasi i principle. Enague siha ta nisita guini ya hu tungo'ha na i publiko esta guaha na ilek-niha. Maulekña buente este taya powers ha baratu-ña kini i FAC rate yan todo siha nai. Lao ilek-hu na maila ya tapan ayuda ta fan cooperate sa down the road siña, ta na maolek tatte i sitbisiu ta na guaha mas adilanto ya gi rasonapble na presiu elektrisidã. Pues enao, si Yu'us ma'ase' nu todos ya hola tana la'chaddek este na aktu ya hu available siha capital para i CUC. Si Yu'us ma'ase', Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: *Si Yu'us ma'ase'*, Senator Paul [Manglona]. Any other member for the amendment's discussion? Recognize Senator Calvo. Senator Calvo, you have the floor.

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Thank you, Senate President. I just wanted to also include, if I may, and I thank the members of leadership for CUC and their testimonies, as well as our team, if I may express. I'm currently on the municipality of Rota, and in alignment with Senator Donald and Senator Paul, I've had conversations with some of the line crew members, and I just wanted to address that, any delay in emergency repairs not for any storms, typhoons. Just like your front liners, the utility crew is essential, so I'm hoping with the explanation in Chamorro and in English, that we do take in hand, the employees' effect on both income and morale. With conversations at hand and they're questioning their leadership in the municipality, especially at the Senate what happens now that, there's a halt due to financial concerns and so forth. I'm in support of, ensuring that we do have equity, and we continue to do what is necessary and ensure that these members, the front liners receive whatever it takes to go beyond their normal work hours and no longer delays because all of us know that it's in dire need. So alongside, if I may Senate Pres, if I may share my statement for the House Bill 24?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Please continue.

Senator Ronnie M. Calvo: Okay. So, Mr. President and distinguished colleagues, I rise in support of House Bill No. 24-107, HD1, SD1 amended form. The Commonwealth continues to recover from the impacts of Super Typhoon Sinlaku and Bavi, which have placed tremendous strain on our utility infrastructure and disrupted fuel supplies essential to provide reliable electricity and water services. The legislation provides the CUC with the authority to secure emergency financing necessary to restore and stabilize these critical services. Reliable utilities are not a luxury, they're essential to public health, public safety and our economy, and the daily lives of every resident and

businesses throughout the Commonwealth. While borrowing should always be approached with caution, extraordinary emergencies such as this require timely and responsible action. This measure provides CUC with the financial flexibility, as stated, needed to respond to immediate operational challenges, while ensuring that our communities continue to receive essential utility services during this period of recovery, and help alleviate the utility rising power rates. For these reasons, I respectfully support House Bill No. 24-107, HD1, SD1 amended form, and thank you our colleagues for expressing them in our Public Comments. I encourage us all to pass it in favor of the necessary deeds as needed. Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I yield.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Calvo, for your comments. Any other member for discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll on the amendments.

ROLL CALL

(HB 24-107, HD1, SD1 – Amendments)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With seven members voting “yes”, we have the requisite number to accept the floor amendments from Senator Castro. Back to the main motion and discussion. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(HB 24-107, HD1, SD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

CLERK: Mr. President, all seven (7) members present voting “yes”.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all seven members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-107, HD1 hereby passes the Senate in the form of SS1. SD1, my apologies. Moving on to Petitions, Memorials, [and] Miscellaneous Communications. There are none.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

Announcements by the members? Oh. Miscellaneous Communications. Yes? Recognize Senator Castro.

Senator Manny G.T. Cruz: Mr. President and members, I just wanted to provide some factual information of what was going down at the Survivor Recovery Center, [at the] Multipurpose. There were some statements made to the community that were incorrect. Right after the storm I was informed by a constituent that there was a backlog at the Mayor's office and at the Recovery Center regarding residency verifications and ownership verifications. So, I contacted the Joint Information Center who also contacted the EEOC, and I contacted folks at the Multipurpose Center and asked them how I could help expedite that process. In sitting side by side with FEMA throughout those times, my staff and I have been helping issue occupancy letters and ownership verification letters. Being down there it helped us understand that a lot of the challenges FEMA is having is not actually because of FEMA, it's because of our government itself. But, at that time, my office needed to figure out the best way to help the people get the resources they need. So, it required us being right there, asking for all the verified information, deeds, additional residency verifications, [and] CUC bills. We weren't just signing anything. We were educating, at the same time verifying the documents. The letters that I issued were brought up through the chain of command within FEMA and that's why it's going through because all those statements, all those certifications, there's a reference and a backup to it. So, what we should be looking at, rather than blaming the person that's actually there helping the people, we should be asking ourselves why FEMA wasn't accepting the different letters from the different agencies? My office being down there, we were able to correct a lot of the discrepancies that were written from other elected officials. Sometimes the coordinates ended up in the Pacific Ocean. Sometimes letters had five street names. And a lot of the times there was no reference to who's the actual land owner. In meeting with FEMA, I asked them "What can we do to help?" Cause they were rejecting some of the deeds. And I asked them, "What can we do to... If I wrote I verified that this street is located on this lot, and it's owned by this person as referenced in this deed would this letter suffice?" And FEMA's like, "Senator, that's a lot of work for you." And I responded, "Whatever we can do to help the people get through the line." And in FEMA's experience, they've never seen an elected official sit side by side. And that's what, that's more than 50 FEMA officials. They've never seen an elected official side by side with them doing that kind of work. And there were several elected officials that passed by me and their constituents [and] didn't offer to sit down and help us. So, it is not right for a sitting elected official

to criticize the elected official that's actually down there helping the people. So please let's get our facts straight before we confuse our public because we don't need our public to be angry for no reason. Let's just focus on getting them the help they need. Thank you, Mr. President.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Castro. On to Announcements. Any announcement by members?

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
NONE

Adjournment. Recognize the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, at this time, I move to adjourn today's Special 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, and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready. All in favor for adjournment, say "aye".

Member present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Aye. This Special Session stands adjourned at 4:28 p.m. Thank you, everybody.

The Senate session adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie S. Aguon
Senate Journal Clerk