
THE SENATE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE



SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTH SPECIAL SESSION – 2026

SJ 24-31

1st Day

Friday, August 14, 2026

In compliance with the Open Government Act, Senate President, Karl R. King-Nabors, issued a session call on August 12, 2026 that the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature will convene this open and public session. The notice, the official session call, and the session agenda was filed in the Office of the Senate Clerk; released to the media; and posted at the Entrance Halls of the Office of the Governor, the Senate and the House of Representatives, posted on the Commonwealth Legislature's website at www.cnmileg.net

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Good morning, everyone. My name is Karl Rosario King-Nabors, I am the Senate President. I will be conducting today's session. I hereby call this 1st Day, Eighth Special Senate session to order. Today is August 14, 2026. The time is 11:56 a.m. here at the Senate Chamber of the Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. It is my pleasure to welcome everybody here in the Chamber today, as well as those watching on cable television Channel 23, the Senate's YouTube page, and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature Facebook page. Before we proceed any further, I kindly ask that we rise for a silent moment [of] prayer.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(Attendance)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Senator Donald M. Manglona
Senator Paul A. Manglona

Present
Here

CLERK: Mr. President, six (6) members are present [and] three (3) [are] absent.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With six members present, we have the requisite number to proceed with today's Special Senate session. Please let the record reflect that Senators Paul [Manglona] and Senator Donald [Manglona] are attending today's session remotely from Rota, and please let the record also reflect that Senator Babauta and Senator Castro are hereby excused from today's session. Before proceeding any further down the agenda, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the legislative staff that we have assisting us here today. We have our IT Manager, Mr. Jonathan Diaz; assisting us with our media, Mr. Luis John Castro; our Sergeant-At-Arms, Mr. Jonathan DeLeon Guerrero; our Senate Clerk, Mrs. Dolores Bermudes; our Legal Counsel, Mrs. Antonette Villagomez; our Legislative Assistant in the building is Devin Macaranas, and also assisting is Mr. David Demapan. Moving on to Item B on our agenda, this is going to be the section of our agenda where we allow the public to provide any comments on any of the items on today's agenda. Before I open up the floor to Public Comments, please, again, keep your comments germane to today's agenda, and I kindly ask that you keep it to around five minutes to allow everybody to participate. Floor is now open for Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Arlene Lizama: I am Arlene Lizama, the Commonwealth Economic Developments Authorities Comptroller, speaking in front of you today on behalf of our Executive Director, Derek Sasamoto. So, I'm speaking in support of the Senate Bill No. 24-52, which authorized the Commonwealth Economic Development [Authority] to utilize its preferred dividend funds to carry out the mandates of Public Law 22-01. This comment is further to what have been submitted by our Executive Director back in July 21, 2026. I would like to re-emphasize our strong support for Senate Bill No. 24-52 and our appreciation for the work that has gone into it. Senate Bill No. 24-52 is a critical piece of legislation that will empower CEDA to effectively fulfill its mission. As highlighted in our official legislative communications, this bill authorizes CEDA to utilize its preferred dividend funds to carry out the essential mandates established under PL 22-01, and this bill has already received a recommendation for passage from your Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Workforce. The important passing of this bill has underscored by the significant economic momentum currently building in the Commonwealth. Specifically, the recent notice regarding CNMI Investment LLC (CILLC) demonstrates the scale of opportunities in our doorstep. CNMI LLC has applied for a qualifying certificate for a proposed investment of approximately \$77.7 million focused on investment, manufacturing, and trading. This massive infusion of capital represents a transformative opportunity for our local economy in the way of economic development. This project is estimated to have an overall annual economic impact of \$5-\$7 million dollars to CNMI's GDP, including job creation. This project anticipates hiring 25 full-time employees by the end of the first 5 years and projected to scale about 56 in subsequent years. CEDA has already scheduled a public hearing, which will happen on August 19th, to move this application forward. To ensure that CEDA can continue attracting and managing significant investments, it must have the financial flexibility provided under [SB No.] 24-52. CEDA's appropriated funding for economic activities is already diminishing and will soon be insufficient

to support these efforts. By authorizing the use of dividend funds as originally intended, the Legislature will equip CEDA with the resources necessary to maintain this positive momentum and continue advancing the CNMI's economic recovery and growth. We therefore urge the Senate to follow the standing committee's recommendation and pass S.B. No. 24-52 to secure and build onto these vital economic benefits for our community in the present and for years into the future. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you Ms. Lizama for your comments.

Michael Ernest: Good afternoon. My name is Michael Ernest, and I am proud to work for CUC. And I'd like to talk today about two bills. One was pre-filed Senate Bill No. 24-64, and that involves amending 4 CMC § 8141(c) to extend from 3 years to 5 years the amount of time which CUC must recover the full cost of services and its rates. A little bit of history, if I could? CUC has not raised its base rates in about 12 years because there was no functioning regulatory body. So obviously we're long overdue, and we're not recovering our costs of operations. And so, there's a currently a petition before the CPUC to increase the rates to get to full cost recovery. When we filed that petition, we realized that because of the inordinate passage of time since there was a rate increase, that if we were to immediately recover the full cost of services, that would pose quite a shock to the ratepayers. CUC proposed a plan to get to full cost recovery over 5 years, very gradual elevation of the rates to get to full cost recovery. During the pendency of this action and in front of the CPUC, it was brought to our attention from the CPUC staff that 4 CMC § 8141 (c) requires CUC to recover not over 5 years, but over 3 years. Obviously, that means that we would need to get more money from the consumers sooner, that we would have to increase more sharply, more quickly. Obviously, it's to CUC's benefit to get more money sooner. But we also recognize that there's been two typhoons and an economic depression happening, and getting to full cost recovery over 3 years might pose very difficult challenges for the rate payers. We talked to Senator Hofschneider about this, and he was insightful enough and gracious enough to propose this legislation. It's very simple. All it does is it allows CUC to increase rates more slowly. All that does is benefit the consumer. We're proud to sponsor this. We're happy-- not sponsor. We're proud to support this. We're glad it's being sponsored. We would ask anyone else here to sponsor it, to give it its full support, and hopefully to move it along as quickly as the Senate deems the legislative process needs to take. Again, this bill solely helps the rate payers. Because this bill has not yet been enacted into law, CUC has to follow the current law. And so, at yesterday's meeting, we approved a new three-year rate recovery plan, which we will be giving to the CPUC this week. Excuse me, next week. So hopefully this bill will receive your favorable consideration and receive favorable consideration by the House and the Governor and become law quickly. That would mean we would not have to keep petitioning CPUC to raise the rates over 3 years, and they could gradually do it over 5 years. So, we thank the Senate and Senator Hofschneider for pre-filing this bill. And again, we would ask the Senate to give this bill its favorable consideration. The other bill that I'd like to discuss quickly is on Final Reading today, it's House Bill No. 24-57, SD1 "To re-establish a government liability cap." On behalf of CUC this is a very important bill. I can only imagine that if CPA's attorney were here, or CHCC's attorney were here, or if any Assistant Attorney General representing any other agency of the government were here, they would also strongly support this bill. Right now, the government, we claim we're self-insured, but we do that because we had a statutory government liability cap. All of our defenses and all of the costs of all of our services currently price in the fact that we believe we have a government liability cap. That

cap was determined to be unconstitutional by the Commonwealth Supreme Court. And so, for the last few many months and I think few years, we've been without a liability cap. As counsel for the Board of CUC, my best advice is going to have to be without this law, they're going to have to get insurance. Now, we are a multi-million-dollar operation. You can imagine the cost of what that insurance is going to be. For liability purposes, we have very dangerous... We deal with electricity, high power. We deal with things on roadways, under the roadways. We deal with construction projects. As an attorney focused on liability, it's a nightmare sometimes. And the fact that CUC currently has no liability protection means that it and its rate payers are presently on the hook for potentially unlimited judgment. And businesses just cannot operate like that, and I would say that the government should not operate like that. It's imperative that the legislature pass a liability cap so that we may continue to provide services to the people as efficiently as we can without needing to secure and pay for private insurance. The only way we can do that is to have a government liability cap re-imposed. And so, on behalf of CUC, I strongly support House Bill No. 24-57, SD1, and I would ask that the Senate give that bill its favorable consideration as expeditiously as possible. Thank you very much.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. Ernest. Public Comments are still open.

Tina Ngo: Hello and thank you for the opportunity to provide a Public Comment. My name is Tina Ngo. I've been living in the CNMI since 2021, so almost 5 years now. And I come to you as a ratepayer. I would like to strongly support Senate Bill No. 24-64, which would allow CUC to, in the event of a rate increase, to do that slowly over the course of 5 years and very gradually, rather than immediately overnight or even over 3 years. I can't imagine that there would be any ratepayer in the CNMI that would be upset about the passage of this proposed amendment. Allowing CUC to recover over 5 years instead of 3 years is beneficial to ratepayers. It would allow families to plan. It would give families more time to plan, to budget. It would be less of a financial shock to families. I know for me as a ratepayer, I would prefer that any increase be over 5 years instead of 1 or 3 years. Yeah, that's about all I have. I strongly support Senate Bill No. 24-64. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thanks Ms. Ngo.

Jonathan Robert Glass: Good afternoon. Good afternoon. That's on. There we go. Technology's harder sometimes.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Oh, yeah. You're on.

Jonathan Robert Glass: Good afternoon, Senate. My name's Jonathan Robert Glass Jr. I want to be very clear that I'm coming here in my individual capacity. I am on a leave of absence. I know normally I appear on behalf of the Attorney General. But today I'm speaking for myself, and I'm speaking as a candidate as for the Attorney General position. And I want to comment on two bills. The first one is House Bill No. 24-57, which is the re-establishment of the liability caps. For anyone that's a government employee, this is important. We have government employees in all three branches of the government and ensuring that we have liability caps to protect the government from just unlimited recovery is very important. Every state has liability caps. We are the only state or territory currently without one. And so, it's very important that we get this passed and done.

Now, part of the research that was done for this was a comparison of different states and how their liability caps were in comparison to what their budgets were, and I will note that the CNMI has a much smaller budget than even the smallest of states. And we still had in our proposing, and is what's in the bill, is a liability cap that is in line with many of the states that have much, much larger budgets, right. That was one of the concerns of the Supreme Court in looking at this, is that the that the cap was supported, and so we did that work, and it is before you, and we would very much request that get passed today so that it can keep moving on. The second bill I'd like to talk about is Senate Bill No. 24-53, and that's the bill that is to prohibit the Attorney General's office from issuing investigatory subpoenas. Now, investigatory subpoenas are a law enforcement tool. Again, it's a law enforcement tool that every single state and territory utilizes. Now, I know that the concern from the Senate and from the Committee when they were reviewing this was in regards to the AG's office overstepping and not having enough protections for citizens, and that is important. But I think what the unintended message that gets sent through this would be that it's a support of corruption by taking away an investigatory tool of the Attorney General that would be used for those types of investigations. And I don't think that's what the message that's wanting to be sent is. The message is, we want to protect the people, and I think in order to do that, the best way would be to sit down with the AG's office and come up with something that would enable and empower that. And to be clear, this is a constitutional office. The AG's office is a constitutionally established independent office that has a constitutional duty to prosecute violations of Commonwealth Law. Now, the AG has passed regulations for issuing subpoenas, and he has built in protections for people, and I think that'd be a great place to look and to start when you're looking at this bill and recrafting it. So, I really would ask that we work collaboratively on it, that this is something that, again, we want to protect the people, but we also want to be able to-- the AG wants to be able to do his job. And us as citizens should want the AG to be able to do his job. When investigations are done correctly, it produces strong cases. Strong cases going into court establishes confidence of the people when convictions do happen. It ensures that we don't have a bunch of just headline-grabbing things of things that look bad all the way around, but it establishes that we do things properly, we do things well, and that we are able to support when we bring charges. No one wants charges being brought against them that are unsupported. And currently what happens, and the reason why I know that some of the suggestions are things like use a warrant, but in order to go get a warrant, you have to file a case first. That's telling us to charge someone, then go get all the information for that charge. This is why investigatory subpoenas are used throughout the United States, is to ensure that before you file those charges as a prosecutor, you are confident that you have the right information, that you have the right person, and that you're bringing the correct charges. And so, I would really encourage that today we table this bill, we send it back to a Committee, and we work on it with the AG's office in order to ensure that we not only protect people, but we provide the proper tools for the Attorney General to do his job. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Mr. Glass, for those comments. Public Comments are still open. If there are none, we will move on and Public Comments are officially closed for today's agenda. Moving on to Item D, Messages from the Governor. Recognize the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 12 on our agenda, 24-300 to 311.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Any discussions from the members? Ready? Moving on. Communications from the Judiciary. There are none.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIARY:
NONE**

Item F, Communications from Heads of Executive Departments.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HEADS OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS:

Clerk: We have four, Mr. President. Oh. 24-32 to 35

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Comments from the members? If there are none, I'd like to go back to Item C of the agenda, Reading and Approval of the Journal. No objections? With that, I recognize the Floor Leader.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. At this time, I move for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-27, 1st Day, Second Special Session dated June 26, 2026.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been an offered motion by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-27, 1st Day, Second Special Session dated June 26, 2026, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor for the adoption of Senate Journal No. 24-27 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Senate Journal No. 24-27 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Back to the agenda, Item F. Clerk, I'm sorry. We're on to, yes Item G.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE HOUSE:

Clerk: We have 10, Mr. President, [24]-161 to 171.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion from the members. Ready? Being that House Joint Resolution No. 24-16 is already placed on today's Resolution Calendar for action. We'll go ahead and proceed on to the next item of the agenda, Item H. Clerk?

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have eight, [24]-250 to 257.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion by members. Ready? Item I, there are no communications from the CNMI Delegate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CNMI DELEGATE:

NONE

There is nothing under Unfinished Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

Moving on to Pre-filed Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills and Resolutions. I'd like to first recognize Senator Jude Hofschneider.

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

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'ase'*, Mr. President. Formally introducing Senate Bill No. 24-64, and this is "To amend 4 CMC, § 8141(c) to extend from three to five years the amount of time over which Commonwealth Utilities Corporation may reach full cost recovery for the benefit of the ratepaying public, and for other purposes."

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. And next I would like to recognize Senator Paul A. Manglona for his introduction.

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Thank you Mr. President. I would like to introduce Senate Local Bill No. 24-05, "To name the Rota East Harbor to the "Joseph Songao Inos East Harbor" in recognition and appreciation of his exemplary service and significant contribution [to the Municipality of Rota and to the people of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes." Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Paul. If I could take a short recess. No objections? Short recess, please.

The Senate recessed at 12:21 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:22 p.m.

We now rise back members, and we just concluded Item K, and now we're on to Item L. Any Introductions of Bills, Initiatives, Local Bills that didn't make the agenda call?

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

I recognize Senator Jude U. Hofschneider and then Vice.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: *Si Yu'us ma'ase'*, Mr. President. Formally [introducing] an un-numbered Joint Resolution, a Senate Joint Resolution, "To express strong support for H.R. No. 97-87 and the Northern Mariana Islands Labor Stabilization Act, introduced by the Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds in the 119th United States Congress. And to urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that provides the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with a stable, predictable, locally responsive, and sustainable labor framework." Mr. President, I welcome any other member that wish to sign off on this Joint Resolution.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: If there are no objections, I'd like to offer it as a Committee of the Whole. No objections? And with that Floor Leader, can I kindly ask for the proper motion?

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Can we take a short recess, please?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Short recess.

The Senate recessed at 12:24 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you members. We now rise back and recognize Vice President Magofna.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Thank you, Mr. President. I am officially introducing Senate Bill No. 24-65, "To provide for visitation by grandparents and for other purposes." Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Vice. Any other members with any bills that didn't make the agenda call? Recognize Senator Hofschneider.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Yes. Mr. President, I apologize. I oversee... I didn't realize I had this before me, but I also would like to further introduce a Senate Resolution, "Commending the extraordinary efforts of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One Detail Tinian in the recovery and relief operations on the island of Tinian following Super Typhoon Sinlaku."

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you, Senator Hofschneider. If there are no other suggestions from the members, we'll move on to Reports of Standing Committees, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-80 from the JGL Committee, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-53, and the committee recommends passage in its current form, and I move for its adoption.

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 an offer motion by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-80, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-53, and has been seconded. Discussion? None. All in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-80 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-80 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you. Up next we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-81 from the JGL Committee reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-55. Committee recommends passage in its current form, and I move for its adoption.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-81 on Senate Bill No. 24-55. Do I hear a second?

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Then, seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-81 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-81 hereby is adopted by the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-82 from the JGL Committee reporting on House Bill No. 24-10. The Committee recommends passage in its current form, and I move for its adoption.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-82, reporting on House Bill No. 24-10, recommending passage in an original form. Do I hear a second?

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: It has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All those in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-82, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-82 is adopted by the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-83 from the JGL Committee, reporting on House Bill No. 24-39. Committee recommends the passage 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. 24-83 reporting on House Bill No. 24-39, recommending passage in its current form, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-83, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-83 is hereby adopted. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-84 from the JGL Committee, reporting on House Bill No. 24-43, HD1. [The] Committee recommends passage in its current form, and 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 our Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-84, reporting on House Bill No. 24-43, HD1, recommending passage in its original form, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All those in favor of adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-84, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-84 is hereby adopted. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Standing Committee Report No. 24-88 from the JGL Committee, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-33. [The] Committee recommends passage in its current form, and 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 our Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-88, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-33, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All those all those in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-88, say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-88 is hereby adopted. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: We have Senate Committee Report No. 24-92 reporting from the REDW Committee on Senate Bill No. 24-57. [The] Committee recommends passage in the form of Senate Draft 1, and I move for its adoption.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for Senate Committee Report No. 24-92's adoption, reporting on Senate Bill No. 24-57, recommending passage in its Senate Draft 1, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All those in favor of the adoption of Senate Committee Report No. 24-92 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Senate Committee Report No. 24-92 is hereby adopted by the Senate. And last but not least, Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: I believe we have two more. But any, in any case, we have Senate Committee Report No. 24-94 reporting on House Bill No. 24-40 from the REDW Committee. [The] Committee recommends passage in its current form, and I move for its adoption.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: 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 [Standing] Committee Report No. 24-94 recommending passage in its original form. This is a committee reporting on House Bill No. 24-40 and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? All those in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-94 say "aye".

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-94 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Lastly, Mr. President, we have Standing Committee Report No. 24-95 from the PUTC Committee reporting on House Bill No. 24-05, and the Committee recommends passage in the form of Senate Substitute 1. 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 our Floor Leader for the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-94, reporting on House Bill No. 24-05, recommending its passage in the form of Senate Substitute 1, and has been seconded. Discussion by the members? Ready? All those in favor of the adoption of Standing Committee Report No. 24-95 say "aye".

Members present voiced “aye”.

All those opposed? Standing Committee Report No. 24-94 is hereby adopted by the Senate. There is nothing under [Item] N, Reports of Special committees or Conference committees.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL/CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:
NONE

Moving on to Resolution Calendar, I recognize our Floor Leader

RESOLUTION CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have House Joint Resolution No. 24-16,” “To recognize and acknowledge the National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and the Guam-CNMI ESGR State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women and to thank and appreciate our civilian employers for their utmost support to our service members by recognizing the week of August 17th through August 21st, 2026 as “Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week.” I move for its adoption.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the adoption of House Joint Resolution No. 24-16. Do I hear a second?

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: And has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(HJR No. 24-16)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President) Yes

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members voting “yes”, House Joint Resolution No. 24-16 is hereby adopted by the Senate. Moving on to our Bill Calendar, I'll recognize our Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR:

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, first up, we have Senate Bill No. 24-53, “To prohibit the Office of Attorney General from issuing criminal investigative subpoenas or adopting regulations to issue investigative subpoenas unless explicitly authorized by CNMI Law or a CNMI Judicial Officer; and for other purposes.” 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 our Floor Leader for the adoption or the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-53 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR No. 24-80 on SB No. 24-55)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-53 hereby passes the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Senate Bill No. 24-55, “To amend Title 9, Division 5 of the Commonwealth Code to establish “Higher Fine Zones”, imposing increased penalties for traffic violations within designated areas such as school zones, construction zones, and other high-risk areas; and for other purposes also known as the Patrick Henry Camacho Castro Act.” I move for its passage.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-55 and has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR No. 24-81 on SB No. 24-55)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-55 hereby passes the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Next we have Senate Bill or House Bill No. 24-10, “To establish change of name legal procedure in the CNMI.” I move for its passage.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-10, “To establish change of name legal procedure in the CNMI.” and has been... Do I hear a second?

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

And has been seconded. Discussion? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(SCR 24-82 on HB 24-10)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-10 hereby passes the Senate. On the Bill Calendar, there seems to be [a] duplicate. House Bill 24-39 was acted upon on a previous session. So, we'll move on to the next bill on the agenda. Recognize Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have House Bill No. 24-43, HD1, “To create a new criminal defense for Desecration or Theft of Memorial or Historical Sites.” 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 our Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-43 in the form of HD1 and has been seconded. Discussion by any of the members? Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(SCR 24-84 on HB 24-43, HD1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

Senator Celina R. Babauta	Absent - Excused
Senator Ronnie M. Calvo	Yes
Senator Manny Gregory T. Castro	Absent - Excused
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Absent - Excused

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Yes
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-43 hereby passes the Senate in [the form of] House Draft 1. Floor leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Mr. President, we have Senate Bill No. 24-33, “To amend Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 18, Articles 1 through 7 of the Commonwealth Code to rename the Commissioner to Fire Chief, Deputy Commissioner to Deputy Fire Chief, Division Deputy Commissioner to Assistant Fire Chief; and for other purposes. I move for its passage.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by the Floor Leader for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-33. And do I hear a second?

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: And has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR 24-88 on SB 24-33)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: yes. With all six members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-33 hereby passes the Senate. Can I kindly call for a short recess, please? Thank you.

The Senate recessed at 12:39 p.m.

RECESS

The Senate reconvened at 12:42 p.m.

Thank you for your patience. We now rise back, and I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. Up next, we have Senate Bill No. 24-57, “To amend 4 CMC § 5611 to modernize and clarify the business licensing framework to promote economic efficiency, business growth, and administrative consistency.” I move for its passage.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Okay. There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the passage of Senate Bill No. 24-57, and has been seconded. Under discussion. And this is going to be... I'm sorry, this will be 24-57 in the form of SD1. Discussion by the members. Everybody ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

(SCR 24-92 on SB 24-57, 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	Absent - Excused
Senator Francisco Q. Cruz	Absent - Excused
Senator Jude U. Hofschneider	<i>Hunggan</i> (Yes)
Senator Corina L. Magofna	Yes
Senator Donald M. Manglona	Yes
Senator Paul A. Manglona	Yes
Senator Karl R. King-Nabors (President)	Yes

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members voting “yes”, Senate Bill No. 24-57 hereby passes the Senate. Recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Up next we have House Bill No. 24-40, “To amend Title 4 of the Commonwealth Code to clarify the application of business registration, licensing, and tax

laws to foreign corporations engaged in land development, infrastructure development, or construction activities in the Commonwealth, including those related to development projects performed under or in connection with contracts, subcontracts, or agreements with the United States.” I move for its passage.

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-40, and has been seconded. Under discussion by the members. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(HB No. 24-40)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-40 has the requisite number to pass the Senate. And lastly for the last bill, I recognize the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Lastly, we have Senate Bill numbered, or sorry, House Bill No. 24-05, “To establish provisions for jaywalking and for other purposes.” I move for its passage in the form of Senate Substitute 1.

Senator Jude U. Hofschneider: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered by our Floor Leader for the passage of House Bill No. 24-05 in the form of SS1 and has been seconded. Discussion by the members. Ready? Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL
(HB No. 24-05, SS1)

CLERK called the roll with the following results:

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

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: With all six members voting “yes”, House Bill No. 24-05 hereby passes the Senate. A little bit of context for our viewing public. There were public comments today made regarding a bill that was for CEDA. The bill exactly was Senate Bill No. 24-52, and this has been the second time we've had Public Comments regarding this piece of legislation. For all those who are inquiring or [are] curious as to why this remains on Bill Calendar for action is, it is currently part of the deliberation process ongoing with the House of Representatives as it relates to some collateral that possibly could be used to allow for the lenders to be more inclined to either, A, give us the loan, meaning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, or B, which is ultimately the biggest issue that we have is repayment of the interest. The principle, as we all have been talking ad nauseam about this is, will be funded and furnished by the reimbursement mechanisms through FEMA and the other stakeholders. However, the interest rate is what is proving to be a little bit more precarious to navigate through. And these are one of the items on the table, on the negotiating table that we are using. So, before we lock it in, we do agree with the intention of the bill. However, priorities are constantly in flux, especially when you're dealing with National State of Emergencies that are constantly looming every other weekend it feels. So, we just want to inform the public that it isn't because of lack of want. We fully support the intention. We fully understand CEDA is support for the bill, and we want to support them in their endeavors. However, this could prove to be a big key and possible headway for us to move forward with the negotiations in the line of credit moving forward with CUC. And I'd like to thank both CEDA and the public's indulgence and patience on the matter. Moving on to the agenda, we have-

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Mr. President?

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Recognize Senator Paul [Manglona].

Senator Paul A. Manglona: Yes, Mr. President. I'd just like to make a request. We have also on the Calendar, Senate Bill No. 24-62, and I want to thank you for placing that on our Calendar. And I'm just seeing if it's possible that we dispose of that. This is actually a requirement by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid that in order for us to establish such long-term care and dignified aging

facility that there must be a framework for these facilities to be licensed. I think it's a very straightforward legislation. Our Legal Counsel and staff, Attorney Villagomez worked on this with Dr. Chelsea Cabrera. I'm wondering if it's something that the members can dispose of today. Thank you.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Thank you for those comments, Senator Paul. We don't have as a Presiding Officer, I don't have an issue with entertaining it. However, I would like to convene as a body and go over the meat and the context of what's being introduced before giving it the consent and the blessing of the full Senate. So just as a function of maintaining consistency with our practice, I ask that we hold it and allow for the members to review the legislation and give it its due time. Thank you. I recognize Senator Manglona, Donald.

Floor Leader Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. President. I think also in light of that, prior to any action just to properly withdraw it from Committee if that's the intent to pass it on Calendar after the discussions.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Correct. Thank you for that, Floor Leader. Appreciate it. Any other members? Moving on to [Item] Q, Memorials, Petitions and Miscellaneous Communications. Clerk?

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS & MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Clerk: Mr. President, we have 11 on our agenda, 24-107 to 117.

President Karl R. King-Nabors: Comments by the members? And then Announcements. Floor is open for the members. Any announcements? None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NONE

And I'll go move on to the Adjournment, recognize our Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President Karl R. King-Nabors: There's been a motion offered to adjourn today's session subject to the call of the Chair. Do I hear a second?

Senator Corina L. Magofna: Second.

This motion has been seconded.

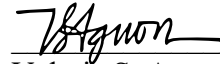
President Karl R. King-Nabors: Discussion? All those in favor to adjourn today's session, say "aye."

Members present voiced "aye".

All those opposed? Today's session stands adjourned at 12:50 p.m. Y'all, please everyone, have a wonderful weekend.

The Senate session adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Valerie S. Aguon
Senate Journal Clerk