

Arnold I. Palacios
Governor



David M. Apatang
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

December 7, 2023

GOV2024-125

The Honorable Donald M. Manglona
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
House of Representatives
Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Chairman and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **House Local Bill No. 23-28, S1**, entitled "To re-appropriate Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars (\$21,448.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04; and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-09; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Rota Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

From the second constitutional convention in 1985 until HLI 10-8 in 1997, there was a constitutional legislative budget ceiling with a specified dollar amount.

HLI 10-8 changed the language to "the budget ceiling provided in this section" and provided a formula for calculation of the ceiling. The constitutional budget ceiling is now the aggregate of: \$150,000 per member; plus \$400,000 to the presiding officer for operations; plus \$2 million for the Legislative Bureau; all adjusted for inflation on a biannual basis from a baseline of January 1996 per the US DOC composite price index. *See* NMI CONST. art. II, § 16.

With 20 current House members, this yields a figure of \$5,400,000, adjusted for inflation from 1996 to 2022 to \$9,832,896.37.

The constitutional legislative budget ceiling is distinct from, and higher than, the amount appropriated for the legislature in the annual appropriations bill, in this instance \$6,791,324.

As the text of this bill notes, this is a re-appropriation of local funds by the local delegation pursuant to its powers under NMI CONST. art. II, § 6 and 1 CMC §§ 1402(b), 1403, and 1407.

This Bill becomes **Rota Local Law 23-08**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



ARNOLD I. PALACIOS

Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision Commission;
Special Assistant for Administration; Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance;
Mayor of Rota; Programs and Legislative Review Office



ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

First Senatorial District

Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

Senator Donald M. Manglona, Chairman
Representative Julie Marie A. Ogo, Vice Chair

Senator Dennis James C. Mendiola, Floor Leader
Senator Paul A. Manglona, Legislative Secretary

November 21, 2023

The Honorable Arnold I. Palacios
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Honorable Juan A. Sablan Memorial Building
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Palacios:

I am honored to transmit for your action **House Local Bill No. 23-28, S1**, entitled, "To re-appropriate Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars (\$21,448.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04; and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-09; and for other purposes.", which was passed unanimously by the Rota Legislative Delegation, Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature on its Final Reading, a quorum duly present during its Second Day, Second Regular Session held on November 20, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,


Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk

Enclosure



**ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2023**

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-28, S1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To re-appropriate Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars (\$21,448.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04; and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-09; and for other purposes.

OFFERED BY

Representative Julie Marie A. Ogo


Introduced on September 7, 2023

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to House Ways and Means Committee on September 7, 2023
Transmitted to Rota Legislative Delegation for action on October 12, 2023

DELEGATION ACTION

Referred to:	None
Comments Solicited:	10/12/23: Mayor of Rota [Del. Matters 23-26] & 19 th Rota Municipal Council [Del. Matters 23-27]
Comments Received:	10/18/23: Mayors Comm. No. 23-09
Standing Committee Report:	None
Passed Final Reading:	October 23, 2023 transmitted to Governor 10/24/23
Recalled from Governor:	November 9, 2023
Passed Final Reading:	November 20, 2023 w/Substitute 1


Frances Joan P. Kaipat
Delegation Clerk



**ROTA LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION
FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2023

H. L. B. NO. 23-28, S1

**A LOCAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR AN ACT
FOR THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT**

To re-appropriate Twenty-One Thousand Four Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars (\$21,448.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04; and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-09; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT DELEGATION PURSUANT TO
CHAPTER 4, DIVISION 1, TITLE 1 OF THE COMMONWEALTH CODE:**

1 **SECTION 1. PURPOSE.**

2 The purpose of this Act is to re-appropriate Five Thousand One Dollars (\$5,001.00)
3 allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04, § 2(d); Sixteen Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars
4 (\$16,447.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04, § 2(c); and Forty Thousand Dollars
5 (\$40,000.00) from Rota Local Law 22-09, § 2(a) for a combined total of Sixty-One Thousand Four
6 Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$61,448.00).

7 **SECTION 2. RE-APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary, the
9 Rota Legislative Delegation hereby re-appropriates the combined total in the amount of Sixty-One

1 Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$61,448.00). from the following Rota Local Laws:
2 Five Thousand One Dollars (\$5,001.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04, § 2(d); Sixteen
3 Thousand Four Hundred Forty-Seven Dollars (\$16,447.00) allotted under Rota Local Law 22-04,
4 § 2(c); and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) from Rota Local Law 22-09, § 2(a) to the
5 following:

6 (a) Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00) to the Office of the Mayor of Rota for personnel
7 and operations.

8 (b) Twenty-one thousand Four Hundred Forty-Eight Dollars (\$21,448.00) to the Rota
9 Legislative Delegation. The justification for this appropriation is based on the following:

10 The funds re-appropriated under this subsection are strictly local funds of the First
11 Senatorial, not General Funds. Therefore, this re-appropriation of the local funds is not part of the
12 FY 2024 Budget Act. Accordingly, this re-appropriation of local funds does not contravene 1 CMC
13 § 7401 and 1 CMC § 7204(d).

14 **SECTION 3. EXPENDITURE AUTHORITY.**

15 The expenditure authority for funds under Section 2 (a) shall be the Mayor of Rota and
16 funds under Section 2 (b) shall be the Chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation.

17 **SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

18 If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or
19 circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act
20 or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held
21 invalid shall not be affected thereby.

1 **SECTION 5. SAVINGS CLAUSE.**

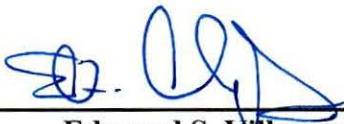
2 This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing
3 right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or
4 order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding
5 instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of
6 terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in
7 existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

8 **SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**


9 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or it becoming law without
10 such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:


Donald M. Manglona
Chairman
Rota Legislative Delegation


Edmund S. Villagomez
Speaker
23rd House of Representatives

Approved _____ this 7th day of December _____, 2023.


Arnold I. Palacios
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands