

**Arnold I. Palacios**  
Governor



**David M. Apatang**  
Lieutenant Governor

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

September 20, 2023

**GOV 2023-939**

The Honorable John Paul P. Sablan  
Chairman  
Saipan and Northern Islands 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. 23-24, D1** entitled, "To appropriate \$1,932,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Saipan Local Law No. 23-07**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**ARNOLD I. PALACIOS**  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Secretary of Finance; Special Assistant for Administration;  
SHEFA; Mayor of Saipan; Mayor of the Northern Islands; Saipan Humane Society Inc.;  
Saipan Zoning Office; Department of Corrections; Programs and Legislative Review Office



SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
Third Senatorial District  
*Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature*

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Chairman • Rep. Roman C. Benavente, Vice Chair • Sen. Celina R. Babauta, Floor Leader

September 1, 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. 23-24, D1**, entitled:

**“To appropriate \$1,932,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes.”**

The local bill was passed unanimously by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation of the Twenty-Third Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature on First and Final Reading, a quorum duly present during its First Day, Second Regular Session held on August 31, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Loan P. Kaipat".

Frances Loan P. Kaipat  
Delegation Clerk

Enclosure



**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2023**

**HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-24, D1**

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

To appropriate \$1,932,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes.

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**OFFERED BY**

Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Roy C. A. Ada, Vincent R. S. Aldan, Roman C. Benavente, Angelo A. Camacho, Joel C. Camacho, Manny G. T. Castro, Joseph A. Flores, Marissa R. Flores, Thomas J. DLC. Mangiona, Malcom J. Omar, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita K. Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul.

**Introduced on August 10, 2023**

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**HOUSE ACTION**

Transmitted to Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for action on

**August 11, 2023**

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**DELEGATION ACTION**

<b>Referred to:</b>	None
<b>Comments Solicited:</b>	8/15/23: Mayor of Saipan [Del. Matters 23-51] Mayor of Northern Island [Del. Matters 23-50] 17 <sup>th</sup> SNIMC [Del. Matters 23-52]]
<b>Comments Received:</b>	8/23/23: Mayor of Saipan [Mayors Comm 23-07] 8/31/23 Mayor of Northern Islands [Mayors Comm 23-08]
<b>Standing Committee Report:</b>	None
<b>Passed First &amp; Final Reading:</b>	August 31, 2023, w/Draft 1

  
**Frances Joan P. Kaipat**  
Delegation Clerk



**SAIPAN AND NORTHERN ISLANDS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION  
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT  
TWENTY-THIRD NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2023**

**H. L. B. NO. 23-24, D1**

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

To appropriate \$1,932,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE THIRD 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 appropriate local funds from the revenues collected pursuant  
3 to Saipan Local Law 11-2 (poker fees).

4 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**

5           Notwithstanding any provision(s) of law, statutes, rules or regulations to the contrary and  
6 pursuant to funds allocated to the Third Senatorial District the Saipan and Northern Islands  
7 Legislative Delegation (SNILD) hereby appropriates \$1,932,000.00 of the revenues collected  
8 pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended as follows:

9           (A) \$1,547,000.00 to Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA), provided  
10 however that \$250,000 of the \$1,547,000.00 shall be reserved for SHEFA personnel and

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-24, D1

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1 operations, the expenditure authority under 2(A) shall be the SHEFA Board Chairperson in  
2 concurrence with the SHEFA Board.

3 (B) \$385,000.00 shall be allocated as follows:

4 (1) \$100,000.00 for the Saipan Mayors Office for personnel and/or operations,  
5 expenditure authority shall be the Mayor of Saipan or his/her designee;

6 (2) \$50,000.00 for the Northern Islands Mayors Office personnel and/or operations,  
7 expenditure authority shall be the Mayor of the Northern Islands or his/her designee;

8 (3) \$50,000.00 for the Saipan Humane Society Inc., expenditure authority shall be  
9 the Secretary of the Department of Finance or his/her designee;

10 (4) \$50,000.00 for the Attorney General's Office to pay for improvements at the  
11 Criminal Division office at Civic Center in Susupe, specifically to improve and make safe  
12 the common walkways and pavilions linking the office spaces for the Criminal Division  
13 and for painting expenses. Funds allocated to the Attorney General's Office shall not be  
14 used for personnel or operational expenses. The expenditure authority shall be the Attorney  
15 General or his/her designee;

16 (5) \$75,000.00 for the Saipan Zoning Office, expenditure authority shall be the  
17 Director of the Saipan Zoning Office or his/her designee;

18 (6) 60,000.00 for the Department of Corrections (DOC) (for the rehab and upgrade  
19 of the Juvenile Detention section at DOC), expenditure authority shall be the  
20 Commissioner of Corrections or his/her designee.

21 **SECTION 3. REPROGRAMMING.**

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-24, D1

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1 Funds appropriated under this act shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose and  
2 notwithstanding any provision of law, all funds appropriated under this Act shall be without fiscal  
3 year limitation.

4 **SECTION 4. MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS.**

5 (A) The Secretary of Finance shall regulate and control the expenditure of the funds  
6 appropriated by this Act to ensure that appropriated funds are not expended contrary to the law,  
7 fiscal management policies, and practices of the Commonwealth.

8 **SECTION 5. REPORTING OF EXPENDITURES.**

9 Expenditures of the funds allocated under Section 2 of this Act shall be responsible to  
10 report all expenses to the Secretary of the Department of Finance and the Chairperson of the Saipan  
11 and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation by the end of the 2023 calendar year. Provided further  
12 that failure to provide all expenses entities that were afforded funds under this Act shall not be  
13 able to avail to any future funds appropriated by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative  
14 Delegation.

15 **SECFION 6. FISCAL YEAR.**

16 The funds allocated under this Act shall be without fiscal year limitation(s).

17 **SECTION 7. 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.

HOUSE LOCAL BILL NO. 23-24, D1

1 **SECTION 8. 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.

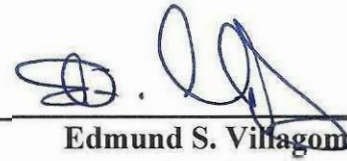
8 **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

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

**CERTIFIED BY:**

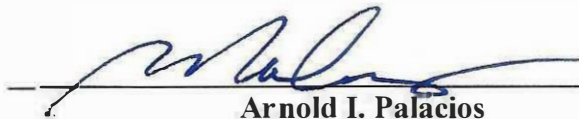


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**John Paul P. Sablan**  
**Chairman**  
Saipan & Norther Islands Legislative Delegation



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**Edmund S. Villagomez**  
**Speaker**  
23<sup>rd</sup> House of Representatives

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023.



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**Arnold I. Palacios**  
**Governor**  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands