

**David M. Apatang**  
Governor



**Dennis James C. Mendiola**  
Lieutenant Governor

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

July 24, 2025

**GOV2025-001**

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
Acting President  
The Senate; Twenty-Fourth Northern  
Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

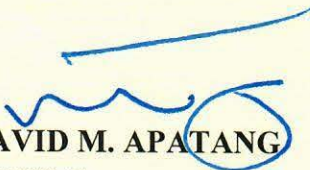
The Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez  
Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Acting President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 24-16, SD1**, entitled, "To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investment through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 24-06**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
**DAVID M. APATANG**  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Acting Special Assistant for Administration;  
Secretary, Department of Commerce; Programs and Legislative Review Office



THE SENATE

Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature  
P. O. Box 500129  
Saipan, MP 96950

June 27, 2025

The Honorable David M. Apatang  
Acting Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Acting Governor Apatang:

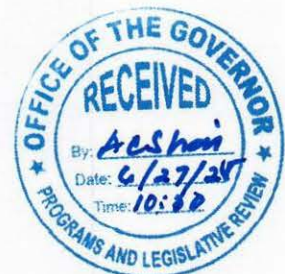
I have the honor of transmitting herewith **Senate Bill No. 24-16, SD1**, entitled, "To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 24<sup>th</sup> Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dolores S. Bermudes".

Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachment





**THE SENATE  
TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH  
LEGISLATURE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-16, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Corina L. Magofna

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** None

**Final Reading:** February 28, 2025

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** Committee on Commerce

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 24-9 adopted 06/20/25

**Final Reading:** June 20, 2025

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Francisco Q. Cruz", written over a horizontal line.

**Senator Francisco Q. Cruz  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025** **S.B. NO. 24-16, SD1**

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**AN ACT**

To promote trade and investment economic development and diversification in the CNMI; to encourage foreign and domestic investments through incentives and streamlined processes, as well as to promote the CNMI as a trade and investment hub; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS  
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           **Section 1. Short Title.** This Act may be cited as the “CNMI Foreign Corporation  
2 Promotion Act of 2025.”

3           **Section 2. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that the Commonwealth of  
4 the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has the potential to authorize foreign corporations to do  
5 business and pay taxes in the Commonwealth and, in so doing, to become a trade and  
6 investment hub in the Western Pacific region. Although Public Law 14-67 established the  
7 Office of Foreign Investment Assistance within the Department of Commerce in May of  
8 2005, the transition from the CNMI permit system to US immigration laws, completed in  
9 2014, has rendered the office irrelevant. With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the world  
10 order and economies, it is necessary to revamp the purpose and mandate of the Office of  
11 Foreign Investment Assistance, which shall be renamed as the “Office of Foreign Corporation  
12 Liaison”.

13           Accordingly, it is the purpose of this Act to promote economic development and  
14 diversification in the CNMI by providing incentives, streamlining business formation,

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-16, SD1**

1 registration, and licensing processes, and enhancing the CNMI's attractiveness as a destination  
2 for trade and investment.

3 **Section 3. Repealer and Reenactment.** Title 1, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 9, Article  
4 4 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

5 **“Article 4. Foreign Corporation Liaison.**

6 **§ 2494. Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison.**

7 There is hereby established within the Department of Commerce an Office of Foreign  
8 Corporation Liaison, which shall be headed by a director appointed by the Secretary of the  
9 Department of Commerce. The director shall hire staff and personnel as reasonably necessary  
10 to carry out the functions of the office as provided under this article.

11 **§ 2495. Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison; Duties and Responsibilities.**

12 (a) Primary Responsibility. The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison through the  
13 director shall be principally responsible for assisting any foreign or domestic investor in  
14 obtaining all the requisite permitting and licensing requirements of the various government  
15 departments and agencies in an expedient manner.

16 (b) The services provided by the office shall include, but not be limited to, assistance  
17 in obtaining information and documents from government departments and agencies,  
18 assistance in filling out applications for government permits and licenses and other  
19 government requirements, routing of applications through the government departments and  
20 agencies on behalf of the foreign corporation, monitoring of the progress of applications for  
21 permits and licenses on behalf of the businesses, and prompt coordination with departments,  
22 agencies, and public corporations and other governmental entities, including, but not limited  
23 to, permitting and licensing departments and agencies, on any additional documentary support  
24 required of the business.

25 (c) Rulemaking authority. The Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall have  
26 rulemaking authority to prescribe reasonably necessary rules and regulations to carry out the  
27 mandate and intent of this Act.

28 **§ 2496. Investment Incentives.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-16, SD1**

1 (a) The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison shall propose a comprehensive  
2 package of financial and non-financial incentives to encourage foreign and domestic  
3 investments in the CNMI. These incentives may include tax credits, exemptions or reductions,  
4 grants, and other forms of financial assistance.

5 (b) The incentives shall be designed to promote investment in key sectors such as  
6 tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, renewable energy, technology, and other industries that  
7 can contribute to the economic development of the CNMI.

8 **§ 2497. Streamlined Investment Processes.**

9 (a) The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison shall coordinate with other government  
10 offices and agencies to streamline investment processes, including business registration,  
11 permitting, and licensing, to make it easier and more efficient for investors to establish and  
12 operate businesses in the CNMI.

13 (b) The office shall be the designated agency to serve as a one-stop shop for  
14 investors, providing information, guidance, and assistance; throughout the investment process.

15 (c) Interdepartmental agreements. The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison,  
16 through the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, may enter into agreements with other  
17 departments, agencies, public corporations, and other governmental entities to establish  
18 procedures for expediting the dissemination of information for foreign and domestic  
19 businesses and the processing of any application for permit or license or any other  
20 governmental service.

21 (d) Private sector coordination. The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison shall  
22 coordinate with the private industry within the CNMI, including banking and financial  
23 services, insurance, telecommunications, energy, and real estate industries to ensure that the  
24 infrastructure, necessary for foreign corporations to domicile and source revenue in CNMI, is  
25 robust and attractive to foreign corporations seeking to do business in CNMI.

26 **§ 2498. Promotion of the CNMI as a Trade and Investment Hub.**

27 (a) The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison, in collaboration with relevant  
28 agencies and organizations, shall develop and implement a comprehensive marketing and

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1 promotional strategy to position the CNMI as a trade and investment hub in the Western  
2 Pacific region.

3 (b) Efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to participating in trade shows,  
4 organizing investment forums and roadshows, and leveraging digital marketing and media to  
5 showcase the CNMI's investment opportunities and business-friendly environment.

6 **§ 2499. Reporting and Evaluation.**

7 The Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison shall provide an annual report  
8 commencing on December 31, 2025 to the CNMI Legislature on the implementation and  
9 impact of the incentives, streamlined processes, and promotional activities, including an  
10 assessment of their effectiveness in attracting investment and promoting economic growth."

11 **§ 2500. Director Hiring and Qualifications.**

12 Within 90 days of the effective date of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of  
13 Commerce shall cause to be hired the director of the Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison  
14 Director.

15 The Secretary of the Department of Commerce shall not cause to be hired, as director  
16 of the Office of Foreign Corporation Liaison, any person who does not meet the following  
17 minimum qualifications:

18 (1) A bachelor's or equivalent degree in business, marketing, economics or related  
19 field and 5 years of related professional private-industry experience; or

20 (2) 10 years of professional private-industry experience in business, marketing,  
21 economics, or related fields."

22 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
23 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
24 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
25 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

26 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
27 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
28 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
29 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.

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1 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
2 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
3 becomes effective.

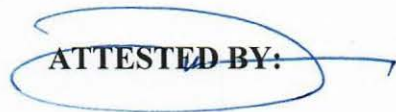
4 **Section 6. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
5 Governor or becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



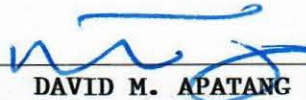
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**DENNIS C. MENDIOLA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**

ATTESTED BY:



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**FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ**  
**SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY**

Approved this 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2025



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**DAVID M. APATANG**  
**Governor**  
**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**