

David M. Apatang  
Governor



Dennis James "DJ" C. Mendiola  
Lieutenant Governor

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

September 11, 2025

GOV2025-241

The Honorable Karl R. King-Nabors  
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. President and Mr. Speaker:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law **Senate Bill No. 24-08**, entitled, "To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; 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. 24-12**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,



**DAVID M. APATANG**  
Governor

cc: Lieutenant Governor; Attorney General; Commonwealth Law Revision;  
Public Auditor; Department of Public Works; BECQ; Department of Finance;  
Special Assistant for Administration; Programs and Legislative Review Office



THE SENATE

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

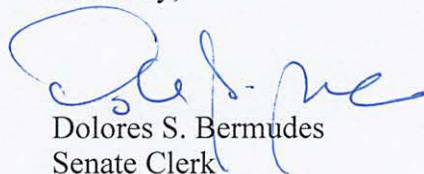
August 07, 2025

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

Dear Governor Apatang:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith **Senate Bill No. 24-08**, entitled, "To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; 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,



Dolores S. Bermudes  
Senate Clerk

Attachment





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

**SENATE BILL NO. 24-08**

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**AN ACT**

To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes.

***SENATE ACTION***

**Offered by Senator(s):** Manny Gregory T. Castro

**Date:** January 27, 2025

**Referred to:** Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Workforce

**Standing Committee Report No.:** 24-13 adopted on 06/23/25

**Final Reading:** July 14, 2025

***HOUSE ACTION***

**Referred to:** None

**Standing Committee Report No.:** N/A

**Final Reading:** July 31, 2025

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



**THE SENATE**  
**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2025** **S.B. NO. 24-08**

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**AN ACT**

To amend certain provisions of the CNMI Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as its proper authority; and for other purposes.

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

1           **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that CNMI Public Law 11-  
 2 122, codified under 2 CMC § 3511 *et seq.*, entitled, “Commonwealth Recycling Act of 1999”,  
 3 was enacted to establish a long-term disposal capacity for the Commonwealth. The specified  
 4 public law also established the Advance Disposal Fee Program for specific materials deemed  
 5 viable for diversion and the promulgation authority for such a program. Cognizant of Solid  
 6 Waste Management being under the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Legislature  
 7 finds that it would be appropriate to amend certain sections of the Commonwealth Recycling  
 8 Act to grant DPW the promulgation authority to carry out the Advanced Disposal Fee  
 9 Program. As the agency whose purview includes Solid Waste Management, it has a better  
 10 understanding of the management and operation of the pertinent facilities. Hence, it is  
 11 appropriate for the DPW to manage the Advance Disposal Fee program.

12           Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to amend certain provisions of the CNMI  
 13 Recycling Act of 1999 to establish the Department of Public Works as the proper authority.

14           **Section 2. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 3532 is amended to read as follows:

15           “**§3532. Advance Disposal Fees.**

16           There is hereby established within the ~~Division of Environmental Quality~~ Department  
 17 of Public Works (DPW), the authority to develop Advance Disposal Fees (ADFs) for specific

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1 materials deemed viable for diversion. Those items taxed under 4 CMC § 1405 shall be  
2 exempt from any advance disposal fee under this chapter. The division is hereby authorized to  
3 evaluate those specific materials and develop a fee structure through regulation that will  
4 provide the proper economic support for diversion programs.

5 In evaluating the benefits of diverting various materials from disposal, the ~~DEQ~~ DPW  
6 should consider the environmental and economic benefits of diversion, the existing and  
7 potential markets for the material, and the existing collection and processing infrastructure.

8 The evaluation should be based on the following:

9 (a) The environmental impacts of the material, both from disposal and from improper  
10 management;

11 (b) The toxicity of the material within the waste stream;

12 (c) The quantities of the material within the waste stream;

13 (d) The strength and stability of markets for the material;

14 (e) The ease of separation and collection of the material using existing equipment and  
15 technology; and

16 (f) The local benefits, both environmental and economic of on-island uses for products  
17 produced from the material.”

18 **Section 3. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 3533 is hereby amended to read as follows:

19 “**§3533. Promulgation of Regulations.**

20 The ~~DEQ~~ Department of Public Works (DPW) shall promulgate rules and regulations  
21 establishing a specific Advance Disposal Fee program for each material. In developing these  
22 regulations and procedures, the legislature intends that, whenever possible, the product  
23 importer or wholesaler shall have a role in the collection and redemption process, either  
24 ~~through~~ directly developing redemption agreements with the product retailers or ~~by~~  
25 contracting out for buyback services with permitted recyclers. The ADF program shall include  
26 (where appropriate):

27 (a) The amount of the fee necessary to create a self-sufficient diversion program,  
28 including collection, processing, and shipping costs; provide adequate incentive to the public  
29 to return the material, administer the program, and provide for public education. The

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1 development of the fee should include an assessment of both the total costs of diversion and  
2 any revenue from the sale of the material.

3 (b) The method of collection of the fees, the establishment of accounting procedures  
4 for the money collected, and a process for auditing payment by importers.

5 (c) Administrative sanctions pursuant to 1 CMC §§ 9101 et seq. for failure to comply  
6 with rules and regulations promulgated in support of this legislation.

7 (d) Details of the specific use of the funds, including the establishment of various  
8 methods of disbursement (grants, contracts, avoided cost payments, etc.)

9 (e) A program for market development, public education and outreach.

10 (f) The establishment of the specific responsibilities of retailers and wholesalers in the  
11 collection of the materials, payment of rebates, and education of consumers.

12 (g) The establishment of specific responsibilities of retailers and wholesalers who  
13 import or sell materials subject to the provisions of this chapter.

14 When developing a fee and diversion program, each specific material should be  
15 considered separately, except when collection, processing, or marketing issues indicate a  
16 benefit for co-management. The rules and regulations shall be developed according to the  
17 material diversion priorities established by ~~DEQ~~ DPW and shall be material specific.”

18 **Section 4. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 3534 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 **“§3534. Funding of Diversion Activities.**

21 (a) There is hereby created within the Commonwealth Treasury an Environmental  
22 Management Fund. All funds collected through the imposition of Advance Disposal Fees shall  
23 be deposited in this fund, specifically established for the diversion of the specific materials  
24 through:

25 (a)(1) Internal operations and shared agency costs such as the operation of  
26 collection and transfer facilities for recyclable materials;

27 (b)(2) Contracting for the private sector operation of collection and processing  
28 activities;

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1           ~~(e)~~(3) Payment of Avoided Costs Payments to permitted recyclers, buy back  
2 centers, or others authorized under this chapter.

3           ~~(d)~~(4) The construction of facilities or purchase of containers or equipment  
4 necessary to collect, process, and re-manufacture the material, including their repair  
5 and maintenance.

6           ~~(e)~~(5) Payments offsetting shipping costs to off-island markets; and

7           ~~(f)~~(6) To fund CNMI or private sector market development activities, with a  
8 prime focus on the development of local uses, including research and demonstration  
9 projects, start-up grants for local manufacturers; and

10          ~~(g)~~(7) To fund CNMI or private sector education and outreach activities,  
11 including personal service contracts, media and publication costs and other related  
12 items;

13          ~~(h)~~(8) To partially cover the costs of funding for the position of recycling  
14 coordinator or other staff whose duties include the promotion of diversion activities,  
15 oversight of diversion grants or contracts or the accounting requirement of the fund;

16          ~~(i)~~(9) Administration of the program including the collection of the fees and  
17 oversight of payments to other agencies or the private sector;

18          ~~(j)~~(10) Travel and training pertinent to the improvement of diversion activities  
19 for the targeted materials.

20          ~~(b)~~ The Secretary of the Department of Public Works, in consultation with the Director  
21 of Solid Waste Management, shall be the expenditure authority of such funds.”

22          **Section 5. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 3535 is amended to read as follows:

23          **“§3535. Inspection of Records and Premises.**

24          The DEQ and/or DPW or its their agents shall have the authority to inspect the records  
25 of any business or individual that may be engaged in the import of materials covered by this  
26 chapter, and to promulgate regulations concerning record keeping.”

27          **Section 6. Severability.** If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
28 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
29 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or

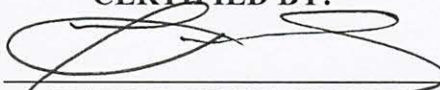
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1 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.


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

9       **Section 8. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the  
10 Governor or becoming law without such approval.


CERTIFIED BY:

  
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KARL R. KING-NABORS  
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ATTESTED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FRANCISCO Q. CRUZ  
SENATE LEGISLATIVE SECRETARY

*Approved* this *11<sup>th</sup>* day of *September*, 2025

  
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DAVID M. APATANG  
Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands