



### **CNMI INTRODUCES NEW REGULATION INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE OF WORKERS**

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Saipan has reported that CNMI Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider recently introduced House Bill No. 14-30 to increase the minimum wage of workers from US\$3.05 per hour to US\$5.00 per hour. Exempted from the new measure are sewers and cutters employed in the garment industry.

The proposed bill offers to remove the mandate on employers to assume responsibility for all medical costs of non-resident workers. It also provides that employers offer health insurance benefits and pay at least 50% of the premium.

The CNMI House Committee on Ways and Means is presently studying the proposed measure which will benefit Filipino workers in the CNMI, except for workers in the garment industry.

Source: POLO, Saipan  
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