



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2021

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

1st Day, Second Regular Session

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its First Day, Second Regular Session on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at 1:41 p.m., in the House Chamber on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House, presided.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Please rise for a moment of silence and when we do, I would like to ask everyone to remember the late Representative Ivan Blanco as well as his wife Carmen and children in your prayers. We mourn with them the loss of a humble servant leader, our colleague and friend; the late Representative Ivan Blanco who will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and nineteen members were present; Representative Ivan A. Blanco was absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, members. With 19 members present and one in spirit; we have a quorum. We now move down to item number II, Public Comments under Public Comments the floor is now open to receive comments please state your name and the entity you represent private or government you'll be given three-minutes to speak. Thank you. Floor is open.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Ms. Sonia Camacho, Director of Courts – CNMI Judiciary (*on behalf of Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja*)

The Chair directed the members to item III, Adoption of Journals and recognized the Clerk.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journals:

*First Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 16, 2021
First Day, Fourth Special Session Journal – July 6, 2021*

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following House Journals:

*First Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 16, 2021
First Day, Fourth Special Session Journal – July 6, 2021*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the First Day, Third Special Session Journal – June 16, 2021 and the First Day, Fourth Special Session Journal – July 6, 2021 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair directed the members to item IV, Introduction of Bills.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

House Bills:

The following bills were officially introduced by the author of each bill and referred to its appropriate committee by the Chair.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler officially introduced the following bill:

H. B. NO. 22-73

To amend certain sections under Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 4 of the Commonwealth Code to enable they mayors of each municipality to enforce provisions in the Litter Control Act of 1989, as amended; and for other purposes.

REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul*)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES)

Representative Donald M. Manglona officially introduced the following bill and request that bill be placed on calendar for action:

H. B. NO. 22-74

To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2022; and for other purposes.

REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai)
(MOVED TO BILL CALENDAR)

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 22-74 on Bill Calendar for action.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

(a) Bills and resolutions shall be read by title upon introduction and (except as provided in subsection (b), the Speaker shall refer such measures to an appropriate committee or to more than one committee, jointly or sequentially. The Clerk shall endorse such reference on the measure before duplication and shall enter such reference upon the Journal. In the case of error of reference, correction may be made by the House, with debate, immediately after the reading and approval of the Journal, by unanimous consent, or upon motion of either committee claiming jurisdiction or the committee to which the measure has been erroneously referred.

(b) The Speaker may place a resolution directly on the Resolution Calendar, rather than refer it to a committee, subject to appeal to the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 22-74 on Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas officially introduced the following bill:

H. B. NO. 22-75

To add a new Expungement procedure as section 4120 to Division 4 of Title 6 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*, Representatives Joseph A. Flores, John Paul P. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS)

The Chair directed the members to House Local Bills.

House Local Bills:

The following bills were officially introduced by the author of each bill.

H. L. B. NO. 22-19

To amend 10 CMC, Division 3, §3702, Authorization to the Municipalities, to require dog owners to be responsible for their pets solid waste disposals.

REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*, Representatives Richard T. Lizama, and Ralph N. Yumul)

H. L. B. NO. 22-20

To prohibit the hunting of Sambar Deer on Tinian until the year 2026; and for other purposes.

REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*)

The Chair directed the members to House Legislative Initiatives.

House Legislative Initiatives:

Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Legislative Initiative:

H. L. I. NO. 22-1

To amend Article III, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands to authorize the election of a Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety; and for other purposes.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Christina M.E. Sablan, Edmund S. Villagomez and Ralph N. Yumul)

The Chair referred H.L.I. 22-1 to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

House Resolutions:

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai officially introduced the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 22-10

Paying just tribute and commending the Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogomoro upon serving more than 50 years of distinguished service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. DENITA KAIPAT YANGETMAI of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for herself*)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. If there's no objection on your part if we could introduce this as a Whole of the Committee.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: No objection.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: No objection. Thank you. And if there's no objection, House Resolution 22-10 will be placed on today's Resolution Calendar for action. Thank you, members. I now recognized Representative Vicente Camacho.

Representative Vicente C. Camacho officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 22-11

To honor the memory of the late Veteran U.S. Army Sergeant First Class, Antonio C. Tomokane, better known as “Mitch”, and to express our sincere gratitude for his twenty-one years of military active-duty service and for his many contributions toward the security of our nation particularly, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his dedication, commitment, and service both in the United States and the CNMI Government.

REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair placed House Resolution 22-11 on the Resolution Calendar and directed the members to House Joint Resolution and recognized Representative Vicente C. Camacho.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Vicente C. Camacho officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. J. R. NO. 22-9

To recognize and acknowledge the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women by recognizing the week of August 16th through August 20th, 2021, as "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week".

REP. VICENTE C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair placed House Joint Resolution 22-9 on the Resolution Calendar and recognized Representative John Paul P. Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced by the Committee of the Whole:

H. J. R. NO. 22-10

To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-21-ST69-0001; the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M-21-ST69-0203; and the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. E-21-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein, and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Solution Grant Programs.

REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair placed House Joint Resolution 22-10 on the Resolution Calendar.

House Commemorative Resolutions: None

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

The Chair directed the members to item VI, Messages from the Governor and recognized the Clerk.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 22-46: (6/30/2021) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Lisa Ann Sztukowski, Endangered Species Program Manager, at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-47: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-1, D1 (*To appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation Reserve Account (specifically under BU 2301); and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-1** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-48: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-2, D1 (*To appropriate sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) from the Poker Licensing Fee Account (specifically under BU 3302); and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-2** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-49: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-6, (*To appropriate funds specifically allotted to the First Senatorial District under Public Law 18-30, as amended; and for other purposes.*). Became **Rota Local Law 22-3** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-50: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-3, D1, (*To appropriate up to \$695,177.58 of the Earned Bond Interest Income collected for the Third Senatorial District that has been identified by the Commonwealth Development Authority as available for appropriations; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-1** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-51: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-7, (*To appropriate \$1,446,000.00 from revenues collected pursuant to Saipan Local Law 11-2 as amended; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-2** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-52: (7/2/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-10, (*To re-appropriate lapse funds under Section 2(B)(5) of Saipan Local Law 21-5; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-3** [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-53: (7/13/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-9, (*To re-appropriate \$2,145.73 allotted under Saipan Local Law 17-18,*

*specifically under Business Unit 3398P and \$3,387 allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-05, specifically under Business Unit 3752U; and for other purposes.). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-4** [For info]*

GOV. COMM. 22-54: (7/13/2021) Informing the House that he signed into law, H. L. B. No. 22-12, D1, (*To appropriate \$560,000 from revenues collected for the Third Senatorial District pursuant to Public Law 20-59; and for other purposes.*). Became **Saipan Local Law 22-5** [For info]

GOV. COMM. 22-55: (5/19/2021 received 7/22/2021)) **Executive Order 2021-11 – RENEWING AUTHORITY—Order authorizing the Secretary of Finance to reprogram or transfer funds from accounts of any department, agency, office, board, commission, corporation, instrumentality or other entity of all branches of the Commonwealth Government in order to meet the threat of COVID-19.**

GOV. COMM. 22-56: (6/11/2021 received 7/22/2021) **Executive Order 2021-12 – RENEWAL—Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL—Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

GOV. COMM. 22-57: (7/12/2021 received 7/22/2021) **Executive Order 2021-14 – RENEWAL—Declaration of State of Public Health Emergency and continued Declaration of State of Significant Emergency establishing response, quarantine, and preventive containment measures concerning coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19); and RENEWAL—Order directing the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office through the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force in partnership with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation to undertake necessary COVID-19 containment measures by means of the development of Emergency Directives to protect the health and safety of the public.**

GOV. COMM. 22-58: (7/18/2021 received 7/22/2021) **Executive Order 2021-15 – RENEWING AUTHORITY—Order authorizing the Secretary of Finance to reprogram or transfer funds from accounts of any department, agency, office, board, commission, corporation, instrumentality or other entity of all branches of the Commonwealth Government in order to meet the threat of COVID-19.**

GOV. COMM. 22-59: (7/16/2021 received 7/22/2021) **Executive Order 2021-16 – Creating the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Strategic Energy Taskforce to promote coherence in the planning and implementation processes of all ongoing and future CNMI energy related projects.**

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, on behalf of our late colleague and brother, Representative Ivan Blanco, I would just like to thank the Administration for signing House Local Bill 22-3 into Saipan Local Law 22-1 and all the Saipan Local Laws, I'd

like to thank the Administration for their swift action and the entities will be receiving these funds very shortly. Thank you again, Mr. Speaker.

There was no further discussion; the Chair directed the members to item VII, Senate Communications and recognized the Clerk.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Senate Communications:

SEN. COMM. 22-24: (7/12/2021) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 22-29, HD1, entitled, “*To authorize government agencies, boards, and commissions to promulgate regulations to utilize electronic means to participate in official meetings.*” on July 8, 2021. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-25: (7/12/2021) Informing the House that the Senate accepted the House amendments to S. B. NO. 22-40, HD1, entitled, “*To protect the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands from Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) contamination.*” On July 8, 2021. [*For info*]

SEN. COMM. 22-26: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-1, SD1, entitled, “*To remove marijuana or THC from all pre-employment drug testing by all government employers and the Office of Personnel Management with certain exceptions; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-27: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-3, SD1, entitled, “*To amend 1 CMC § 2892(l) to exempt the Northern Marianas Technical Institute, as established by Public Law 20-92, from the oversight of the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-28: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-7, entitled, “*To prohibit personal use of political campaign funds and to provide for the disposition of unused campaign funds by establishing a new section 1 CMC § 6415; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-29: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-18, SD1, entitled, “*To waive the Northern Marianas College tuition for a veteran with 30 percent or greater service-connected disability; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-30: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. L. I. NO. 22-3, SD1, entitled, “*To amend Section 10 of Article III of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands to restrict the governor’s emergency powers to mobilize available resources to respond to that emergency within the executive branch but not including the legislative branch, the judicial branch and autonomous agencies.*”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [*For action*]

SEN. COMM. 22-31: (7/12/2021) Transmitting for House action S. L. I. NO. 22-4, entitled, “*To propose a constitutional amendment to Article X, Section 2, of the NMI Constitution to require the governor to provide a report on the social, fiscal and*

economic impact of tax exemptions.”, which was passed by the Senate on July 8, 2021. [For action]

SEN. COMM. 22-32: (7/15/2021) Returning H. C. R. NO. 22-1, HD1, entitled, “*To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2022, beginning October 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2022.,*” which was passed by the Senate with amendments on July 15, 2021, in the form of **H. C. R. NO. 22-1, HD1, SD1**. [For action on Senate amendments]

SEN. COMM. 22-33: (7/15/2021) Returning H. J. R. NO. 22-7, entitled, “*To honor and commend the United States Coast Guardsmen that have served the CNMI under the leadership of Admiral Karl L. Schultz.*”, which was adopted by the Senate, without amendments on July 15, 2021. [For info]

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-24 to 22-33 so they may become property of the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-24 to 22-33 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair referred the following Senate Communications accordingly:

- *Senate Communication 22-26 (S.B. 22-1, SD1) referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-27 (S.B. 22-3, SD1) referred to Committee on Education*
- *Senate Communication 22-28 (S.B. 22-7) referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-29 (S.B. 22-18, SD1) referred to Committee on Education*
- *Senate Communication 22-30 (S.B. 22-3, SD1) referred to Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-31 (S.L.I. 22-4) referred to Committees on Judiciary and Governmental Operations and Ways and Means*
- *Senate Communication 22-32 (H.C.R. 22-1, HD1, SD1) placed on the Resolution Calendar for action*

The Chair directed the members to item VIII, House Communications and recognized the Clerk.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following House Communications:

HSE. COMM. 22-25: (7/2/2021) From Representative Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the office on personal leave from July 6 to July 9, 2021 and request to be excused from any scheduled meetings during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-26: (7/16/2021) From the House Minority Leader Representative Blanco informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth on official business beginning Monday, July 19, 2021 and returning on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 and request to be excused from any and all official functions during his absence. [*For info*]

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item IX, Communications from Judicial Branch and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Clerk announced the following Judicial Branch Communication:

JUD. BR. COMM. 22-3: (7/20/2021) From the CNMI Judiciary re: *submission of Amended FY 2022 Budget Request*. [*For info*]

The Chair referred Judicial Branch Communication 22-3 to the Committee on Ways and Means for reference.

There was no further discussion; the Chair directed the members to item X, Communications from Departments & Agencies and recognized the Clerk.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Department & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-23: (7/28/2021) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *FY 2021—Third Quarter Report*. [*For info*]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-24: (7/29/2021) From the Department of Public Lands (DPL) re: *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. [*For info*]

The Chair referred Department and Agency Communication 22-23 to the Committee on Ways and Means and Department and Agency Communication 22-24 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item XI, Miscellaneous Communications and recognized the Clerk.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk announced the following Miscellaneous Communications:

MISC. COMM. 22-45: (7/6/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of RLD Resolution No. 22-2, entitled, “*To amend the Official Rules of Procedures of the Rota Legislative Delegation to add provisions pertaining to the Rota Legislative Journal Clerk.*”, which was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-46: (7/6/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of RLD Resolution No. 22-3, entitled, “*To pay tribute to the Late †Simeon E. Taisacan on his untimely passing and to honor him for his Contributions to the people of Rota.*”, which was adopted by the Rota Legislative Delegation on June 16, 2021. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-47: (7/12/2021) From the Legislative Bureau re: *Addtl funding under FY 2022 Budget for the Legislative Bureau.* [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-48: (6/28/2021) From Ms. Jane Mack and Mrs. Maria P. Muña of the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) extending their appreciation that was bestowed by the CNMI House of Representatives. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-49: (7/7/2021) From the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) extending appreciation to the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) in supporting funding for the MLSC outreach to the Saipan community. [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-50: (7/12/2021) From the Director of the Legislative Bureau re: *Position of Legal Counsel.* [*For info*]

MISC. COMM. 22-51: (7/14/2021) From the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation (MLSC) re: *Saipan Local Law 22-05 — MLSC Appropriation.* [*For info*]

The Chair referred Miscellaneous Communication 22-47 to the Committee on Ways and Means for reference.

There was no discussion; the Chair directed the members to item XII, Reports of Standing Committees and recognized the Clerk.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Clerk announced that there are two Standing Committee Reports ready for action.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 22-21: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-70, entitled: “To reform the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 to promote economic development in the Commonwealth and increase competitiveness of the Commonwealth for private sector investment.” *Your House Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-70 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more of a suggestion for a technical correction just in light of the passage or the enactment rather of Public Law 22-1, which among other things changed the name of CDA officially to the Commonwealth Economic

Development Authority. I'd like to suggest if the committee has no objection and if the authors have no objection to just make this technical correction and update the name of the agency in both the committee report and the bill. Could that be considered technical?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Legal Counsel, I recognize.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: But could we do it in the committee report too is what I'm asking.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Legal Counsel?

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: There's always time to do it and it would take some time to do it in the committee report. So, if we want to just effectuate the change in the bill itself –

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Sure, but what I'm suggesting is prior to transmittal to the Senate that the correction be made.

Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron: We're prepared to do it in the bill itself 22-70 where the change would be most necessary, we could add the change to the committee report, but that would take additional time.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Are we good Representative Sablan?

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Yes. Are we going to make that correction then?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: On the bill?

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Well, I mean it's both on the report and the bill right?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Counsel? Quick recess.

The House recessed at 2:07 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess we were discussing Standing Committee Report 22-21 and there was a discussion by Representative Tina Sablan regarding a technical amendments regarding the abbreviations CDA to change to CEDA on the committee reports to reflect on Public Law 22-1. So without any objection I would like to recognize the Floor Leader to clarify that motion. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-21 with technical amendments.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-21 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following Standing Committee Report:

S. C. R. NO. 22-22: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-56, entitled: “To assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Commerce and Tourism recommends that the House pass the bill in the form of **H. B. No. 22-56, HSI.***

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-22 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XV, Resolution Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 22-10

Paying just tribute and commending the Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro upon serving more than 50 years of distinguished service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 22-11

To honor the memory of the late Veteran U.S. Army Sergeant First Class, Antonio C. Tomokane, better known as “Mitch”, and to express our sincere gratitude for his twenty-

one years of military active-duty service and for his many contributions toward the security of our nation particularly, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands through his dedication, commitment, and service both in the United States and the CNMI Government.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-11 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 22-9

To recognize and acknowledge the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Guam-CNMI State Committee and their volunteer members for their exceptional service and commitment to our service men and women by recognizing the week of August 16th through August 20th, 2021, as "Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week".

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 22-9 with the following results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-9 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

H. J. R. NO. 22-10

To authorize the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through its Governor, to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Application No. B-21-ST69-0001; the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Application No. M-21-ST69-0203; and the Emergency Solutions Grant Application No. E-21-DC69-0001; to receive the funds requested therein, and to assume all responsibilities that may be imposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnership Program, and the Emergency Solution Grant Programs.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion for the adoption of House Joint Resolution 22-10 with the following results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Joint Resolution 22-10 is hereby adopted. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the following resolution:

H. C. R. NO. 22-1, HD1, SD1

To approve revenues and resources of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as identified pursuant to Article III, Section 9(a) of the Constitution, as amended, and 1 CMC, Division 7, for Fiscal Year 2022, beginning October 1, 2021, and ending on September 30, 2022.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. As you are when we adopted the concurrent resolution into original form and we passed this house draft one we made an amendment and the understanding that the suspensions under the budget specifically to Public Law 20-59 and 18-30 that they understand the second submission of July would relieve those money so that the senatorial districts and the municipalities can get some of those funds unfortunately the communications that was sent through the supplemental budget are – sorry the second submission by the Administration on July 2nd did not suspend – unsuspend public law 20-59 and 18-30 therefore; the Senate made its amendments to reflect the communication from the Administration therefore – unfortunately we won't be receiving those funds for fiscal year 2022 for the senatorial districts and that is the reason why the Senate made the amendment so I respectfully ask the members to support the concurrent resolution as amended by the senate for those reasons that the Administration did not submit the budget on July 2nd on suspending the suspensions of the original submission on April 1st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you members.

The Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 with the following results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, HD1, SD1 is hereby adopted. Thank you, members. We now move down to the Bill Calendar and I now recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:

H. B. No. 22-56

To assess a fee on plastic checkout bags distributed in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion; the Chair recognized the Clerk for a roll call vote.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to pass House Bill 22-56, House Substitute 1 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-56, House Substitute 1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:

H. B. No. 22-70

To reform the Investment Incentive Act of 2000 to promote economic development in the Commonwealth and increase competitiveness of the Commonwealth for private sector investment.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Angel A. Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and this is continuing from our previous discussion to state for the record the request for a technical amendment to change all references of the Commonwealth Development Authority or CDA in the bill to reflect Commonwealth Economic Development Authority or CEDA, so move.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: I don’t know if Rep. Demapan made a motion, but I think we’re considering it as a technical error on the legislation so it doesn’t change the version of the legislation correct?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: So, it’s a technical, I think we agreed for technical right?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Yes. Okay. Alright, thank you. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready.”

The Clerk called the roll on motion to pass House Bill 22-70 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 19 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 19 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-70 hereby passes the House. Now, before I recognize the Floor Leader, you guys want to stretch first? Alright, short recess.

The House recessed at 2:33 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 2:53 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, the House passed House Bill 22-56, House Substitute 1 and House Bill 22-70. Now we have one more House Bill on the calendar and I’d like to recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10.

RULE VII. COMMITTEES GENERALLY

Section 9. Committee Reports; Other documents

(a) Standing or Special Committees shall submit a written report to the Speaker within 60 days from the date the matter was referred to the committee, unless a shorter or longer time is ordered by the Speaker pursuant to a decision by the House Leadership. Subcommittees shall submit reports on matters referred to them as prescribed by the Standing Committee Chair. Standing, special and conference committees shall submit their reports in writing and provide an electronic copy to the Clerk who shall number the reports consecutively in the order received, cause such reports to be reviewed for legal sufficiency, reproduced, and furnished each member of the House at least twenty-four hours prior to the session at which it is to be considered. A committee report shall state findings of facts and conclusions based thereon together with a specific recommendation as to the manner in which the bill, resolution, or other matter referred to the committee should be disposed of by the House. A report recommending a bill or resolution for passage shall clearly state the purpose of the bill. A report on a bill or resolution shall show clearly any proposed amendments and the Clerk shall place such a bill or resolution on the appropriate calendar.

(b) A report shall be considered adopted by a committee when the Chairperson and a majority of the members of the committee have signed the report concurring therein. A member or members not concurring in the report of the majority may so indicate by submitting a minority report which shall be attached to the committee report or by signing with "I do not concur".

(c) When a committee recommends that a bill or resolution be formally filed (indefinitely postponed), the recommendation is reported to the House floor as a committee report to be confirmed by majority vote. Adoption of the committee report by the members has the effect of officially filing the bill.

(d) When, by majority vote, the House adopts a committee report recommending favorable action on a bill or resolution, the bill or resolution as reported by the committee shall be placed on the appropriate calendar for House floor action.

(e) All documents, testimonies, or other evidence submitted to any standing or special committee or subcommittee in connection with any matter referred to the committee or subcommittee shall be the property of the House. The Chair of any committee or subcommittee shall deliver all such documents, testimonies, or other evidence to the House Clerk upon expiration of the term of the House. Such documents, testimonies or other evidence may be attached to committee reports as supporting documents.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 9. First Reading of Bills and Resolutions

(a) When a bill or resolution is read in the House the first time, the Clerk shall report the bill by title, unless a majority orders it read in full, or by such subdivisions as the motion to read may indicate. The House shall then proceed to debate the measure, and no other amendment shall be in order until all committee amendments shown in the Committee Report are disposed of, except that such committee amendments shall themselves be subject to amendment. At the conclusion of a debate the House shall vote on passing the measure on First Reading after affording an opportunity for one motion to recommit with or without instructions. If the Measure passes with amendments, the Clerk shall engross such amendments and cause the measure, or any page thereof, to be reprinted as provided in Sections 4 and 6 of this Rule.

(b) If a bill passes First Reading, the Clerk shall place it on the Bill Calendar for Second Reading the next legislative day.

(c) First Reading of a resolution shall be the only and final reading, and upon its passage, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

Section 10. Second Reading of Bills

(a) When a bill is read in the House a second time, it shall be considered in the same manner as for First Reading, except that further amendments shall be in order without regard to whether or not they are proposed by the committee reporting the bill.

(b) Second Reading of a bill shall be the final reading, and upon its passage, which shall be by Call of the Roll, the Clerk shall dispose of it pursuant to Section 14 of this Rule.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to suspend Rule VII, Section 9 and Rule IX, Sections 9 and 10 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to pass the following legislation:

H. B. NO. 22-74

To make appropriations for the operations and activities of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, its agencies, instrumentalities, and independent programs, and to provide budget authority for government corporations for Fiscal Year 2022; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Donald M. Manglona.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon colleagues, I know there are a couple of amendments that will be introduced today, but before I do I'll just briefly go over some of the actions that the committee has taken to provide you the this budget bill, but before we do colleagues I just want to take this time to share with you that the role our dear colleague Representative Blanco has played in the work of the committee as you know Rep. Blanco shared the Ways and Means in the last legislature and because of his expertise and his experiences as well as his relationship with these agencies I knew I could trust and rely on him to step in when whenever I'm unavailable and to offer his guidance on how we should proceed during this budget process. And while his feet were smaller than mine you know I had bigger shoes to fill and so today we are here to deliberate on this budget bill and that I pray for his continued guidance from up above so that we can all come together and address any concerns that the members may have so that we can pass the best version of this bill and so that we can send it up to the Senate for consideration. So with that, said you know I just want to take this opportunity as well to thank all those who have partaken in this lengthy budget process my appreciation goes out especially to the municipalities, agencies and department heads who came out to testify as well as all those who have provided the committee with a copy of their budget proposal. I would especially like to thank the committee members as well as the LB staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring a balanced budget, which we now have in front of us. So, while we had hoped to see an increase in local resources, we were once again challenged to distribute a budget very much like last year. However, with the great work of Congressman Kilili and those

who assisted in getting the ARPA pass which provided around half a billion dollars to the Commonwealth we were able to make these informed decisions taking into account the governor's spending plan, which was in displayed in volume four. Now while we may see significant changes to the general fund we did so knowing that the department and agency requests were addressed in the ARPA allocations. OMB has acknowledged the provision in the appropriations bill that clarifies the authority of the agency heads to have the reprogramming authority from any funds allocated to personnel down to non-personnel in order to meet the upper agency's operational needs. So with that said, members I'd like to point out several provisions that the committee has proposed. A couple of items on the provisions were carried on from last year, but some of the major additions that we had or included the Medical Referral being transferred to CHCC along with any funding that was proposed based on the governor's executive order emergency power limitations this will only apply within the executive branch and will require a 60-day legislative approval per the constitution. Another provision we added was to require finance to submit financial records of quarterly allotments, monitoring while we do get financial status reports these quarterly reports that we added are particularly for PSS, Department of Labor in regards to CW funding, NMTI, CACC, NMC and MVA; the committee had proposed to allocate \$50,000 to the department or sorry Office of Personnel Management, for the desk audit of the Department of Public Safety and Department of Corrections. Another provision that we added was the OPA 1% fees where we authorize the Secretary of Finance to establish a separate account to deposit all OPA fees so that allotments can be made on a monthly basis. Another provision is to create a business unit into which 5% of money allocated to all sub-accounts \$64,570 shall be used for purchase of indigenous art person went to 1 CMC 7203 this would require all agencies that have proposed funding for office furniture under 1 CMC 7203 it says that 5% of that shall be used for indigenous arts and that if the agencies fail to do that then that 5% will be deducted in the preceding fiscal year. We also allocated \$50,000 to PSS to conduct a feasibility study for Hopwood to determine whether Hopwood shall be moved or stay where it's at. FEMA gave them a five-year deadline. We are now in year four and so they will need to make a decision within the year. We've also allocated \$50,000 to the Office of Planning and Development to do a feasibility study or a market study on the regulatory review of the casino gaming industry and as I stated earlier Secretary of Finance is the authorized expenditure authority with the U.S. Treasury and with that in mind there have been a an infusion of funds within the personnel portion of the ARPA allocation and we wanted to emphasize as it was stated in Commonwealth law and since the Secretary of Finance had extended the expenditure authority to department agency heads and the mayors of the municipality we wanted to emphasize that funds can be moved from personnel to non-personnel in order to meet the operational needs of the office. And to tie it all together, one main provision that we had included is that you know although we do not have the authority to appropriate the American Rescue Plan Act funds we made our decisions on the general fund side based on the Governor's spending plan, again you will find that in volume four and so with that in mind the committee has agreed to consider the governor the Governor's proposal and that any changes to that proposal shall require legislative approval. And so with that another in regards to changes in Schedule A we've established the Mental Health Court within the judicial branch as well as providing the adequate staff in order to run the court. We've removed all vacant FTEs that did not have any names listed and were not funded and then we put back those NOPs that we felt is needed by the department or municipality and based on their request during the budget hearings. What will be proposed is to establish the FTEs for NMTI, which was in the House Resolution that Representative Leila introduced and we passed in the House, but it's still sitting in the Senate so these NOPs have not been established yet and so that will be one of the amendments I will be making today. The rest,

again members these are similar to last fiscal year’s provisions the ones that I did not mention. With that members, I now would like to offer a floor amendment.

Representative Donald M. Manglona offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

To: House Bill No. 22-74

Offered by: Representative Donald M. Manglona

AMENDMENTS:

1. Page 18, Line 12:

To amend Section 301 (d) Northern Marianas Housing Corporation to include newly submitted NOP; Personnel; Operations; and Total to read as follows:

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| “(d) Northern Marianas Housing Corporation | NOP <u>91</u> | PERSONNEL <u>\$4,980,029</u> | OPERATIONS <u>\$3,049,353</u> | TOTAL <u>\$8,029,382</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

2. Page 18, Line 17: To update Section 301 “Grand Total” to include the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation:

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | NOP | PERSONNEL | OPERATIONS | TOTAL |
| “Grand Total | 1,816 | \$99,612,508 | \$106,319,003 | \$205,931,511 |
| | <u>1,907</u> | <u>\$104,592,537</u> | <u>\$109,368,356</u> | <u>\$213,960,893</u> |

3. Schedule A. Page 6. Under NMTI, BU: NEW, insert the following under NOP:

NOP: “28”

In addition, to amend the NOP under “Total Other Programs”; “Grand Total” and “Grand Total with DPL” accordingly.

| | | |
|--|------------------|--------------|
| Total Other Programs: (NOP) | 1,194 | <u>1,222</u> |
| General Fund Grand Total: (NOP) | 3,381 | <u>3,409</u> |
| General Fund Grand Total with DPL: (NOP) | 3,462 | <u>3,490</u> |

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: August 3, 2021

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:
/s/ Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron

Representative Donald M. Manglona: The fourth amendment, Counsel can you please bring it up? During the public comment Ms. Sonia propose that we include the judiciary in terms of not

having them to go through the same processes and from my recollection in the last legislature they have submitted a proposed regulation procedure, which the House accepted.

Representative Donald M. Manglona offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

House Bill No. 22-74

I hereby move to amend current text in HB 22-74 to reflect the following amendment as 22-74:

4. On page 18-line 21, page 19, line 3. Revise the current text to read as follows:

Section 302. Prior certification of Funds.

No Contract shall be entered into with the Commonwealth or any government entity therein without first receiving from the Secretary of the Department of Finance certification that lawful and sufficient funds have been appropriated. Notwithstanding any Commonwealth laws, regulations, or provisions to the contrary, this ~~This~~ section shall not apply to the Judicial Branch, the Public School System and the Northern Marianas College.

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: August 3, 2021

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel Joseph Tajeron

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: So, this is a three-part amendment, correct? The first one pertaining to NMHC, the second pertaining to NMTI and then this third pertaining to certification of funds.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Four. Sorry, the first is NMHC, the second is the funding portion, which added the NMHC.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. So, we're voting on all four at the same time.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Yes.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. Thank you. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced “ready.”

There were no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Donald M. Manglona was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

To: House Bill No. 22-74, HD1

Offered by: Representative Blas Jonathan T. Attao

AMENDMENTS:

1. Page 30, Line 1:

To amend subsection (g)(2) of Section 703. Legislative Branch. To read as follows:

“(2) Of the funds appropriated to the Legislative Bureau Operations, BU#1770, \$100,000 shall be used to fund a Forensic Audit of all ~~federal~~ funds appropriated and/or received by the CNMI from September 2018 to the end of Fiscal Year 2022 beginning March 2020 to June 30, 2021. The forensic audit shall be conducted by a forensic accountant or other qualified certified public accountant and its findings shall be made public and presented to the legislature no later than 180 days after it is awarded the contract by the Legislative Bureau. All audited entities are hereby required to fully cooperate with said audit. The auditor shall report to the presiding officers if any entities fail to cooperate with the audit.

2. Page 30, Line 10:

To Delete in its entirety, subsection (g)(3) of Section 703. Legislative Branch.

~~“(3) Under the Legislative Bureau Personnel, BU# 1770, the following 3 new positions are hereby authorized: (1) paralegal; (1) legislative assistant and (1) information technology assistant to provide professional services to both houses of the legislature.”~~

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: August 3, 2021

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel Joseph Taijeron

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: But the understanding that the three positions will remain with the Legislative Bureau one of those positions will be for an IT person and the other two will be determined by the Legislative Bureau Director and the Legislative Bureau of staff whether the need of one paralegal for each house or one additional legislative assistant for each house.

The motion was seconded.

There were no discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: House Bill 22-74 is now in the form of House Draft 2. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Angel Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And while I commend Chairman Donald and the Committee on Ways and Means for the meticulous job of coming together and formulating this budget bill before us. I have one recommendation for consideration it's not necessarily an amendment to the bill, but before you, each of you have a copy of this detail Schedule A showing three columns, no changes to the original Schedule A; however, just for reference purposes for our government stakeholders and our community I think it's important that we show them in totality how much funds is going to each respective business unit. We do realize that there were some reductions made to certain business units, but that's because there were funds supplemented from the ARPA funds that are set aside for next fiscal year. And so, the detail Schedule A before you is a recommendation to reflect the general fund column, which is available for appropriation in this budget bill and reflect the governor's proposal for ARPA or FY 2022 and then finally the last column reflects the combined total to each business unit just for the sake of every activity to understand and comprehend why changes were made in the general fund and how they get it back under the ARPA allocation. So, with that Mr. Speaker, I asked for the indulgence and the consideration of Chairman Donald and members to replace Schedule A on the bill with the new Schedule A that's before us. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Demapan.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: May I speak?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize the Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: In line with Rep. Demapan, if the members can go to the bill as a form of draft 2 under page 42, which is outside sources and under 42 (d) on page 46 it talks about the American Rescue Plan and one of the last portion of the first sentence under line 12 it states “spending plan has set forth in volume four of the Governor's annual budget submission of 2021 as amended in July 2021.” The reason for I believe Rep. Demapan’s change in this is because not every member that's going to receive or any government entity that's going to be receiving their funds or even they're going to look at the budget bill itself doesn't reflect an appendix that what we're trying to say under Section (d) on page 46 so this led this replacement will actually show them the detail of what's the intent of the trends the actions of the committee

and to assist the recipients of the appropriations act as to why they were increased or decreased and a reflection of what they will be receiving under the ARPA. I believe that's correct now Rep. Demapan? So, with that, I think it's good that we would replace the appendix with the specific appendix so it follows the legislation through and when it does get to the administration at least there's a reflection of what the intent of the distribution of the ARPA funds as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Representative Manglona, did you have your hands raised?

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Yes. Thank you, Vice Speaker. I just want to proceed with caution in terms of including anything other than what we're able to appropriate. It is good to have it for informational purposes, but nothing – what we have in front of us is just the what was taken out of volume four no changes to any ARPA allocations, but thank you again for bringing it up as we know agencies have been calling in regards to their allocations under the general fund, but if we add what we have in Schedule A to what was proposed in volume four that should come up with the totals that will that should be allocated to all entities. Also keep in mind the current fiscal year agencies were given ARPA as well and those funds can be used next fiscal year so any funds that they weren't able to use this fiscal year will be rolled over and added to what's proposed for fiscal year 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Manglona. Recognize Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you. And thank you for that Rep. Manglona, but if we can refer to the language under Section (d) of American Rescue Plan it already states that absent legislative consent in the form of a House Joint Resolution, the Governor shall make no changes to the allocations of outside source funds in the American Rescue Plan – spending plan has just set forth in volume four; therefore, the replacement of this appendix would will strengthen the language of what the committee came up with under the American Rescue Plan, so that every entity that will be receiving funds whether from the general fund or from the American Rescue Plan will see that those monies it should be at that amount. This is just going to follow the legend the bill itself all the way through, we understand that we're only appropriating the general fund monies that were identified for the literature for preparation purposes, but we're also putting in language on page 46 the consent of the legislature to a joint resolution I think it's formal to say that that we also show the ARP monies and the total that each entity will be receiving inclusive of the ARP. We've already got that language, we might as well show the entities how much they will be receiving and if there's any changes and this bill does go all the way through without any amendments and specifically to this section it strengthens this body in making sure that the entities will be receiving the exact fonts that we've appropriated and the outside sources that they've been identified to receive. I think it's important colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And while I understand the rationale for providing within the budget act information about how the ARPA funds are to be allocated to the different departments and agencies of the government, I do share the Chairman's

concerns about proceeding with caution for all the reasons that he mentioned. I do think also that there may be some confusion about the NOPs that we attempt to provide some guidance and limitations on at least with respect to general fund appropriations. I think that there could be some confusion created to have this schedule substituted wholesale with a new schedule that really hasn't been subject to review by the committee. This is the first time, I'm seeing this we haven't really had a chance to validate the figures and I would not want to just substitute in this this new schedule without the committee having had the opportunity to consult further with our fiscal analyst and verify these numbers and also you know we just adopted some changes. We should go in and make sure those are accurate too. I would not feel comfortable just substituting this without further review. You know perhaps we consider once we have validated these figures attaching this as a Schedule (b) for informational purposes, I do agree that there is value in the members of the public as well as the agencies that are receiving local as well as ARPA funds to see these figures side by side, but I'm not comfortable at this point which is wholesale substituting without further review. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Tina Sablan. Any further discussion? Recognize Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao: I'm sorry members, I know we only do two rounds, but just on the budget right. I understand Rep. Tina Sablan and good Chair's thoughts of proceeding with caution, but I'm sure that the committee also looked at the ARPA funds and how much specific departments or line-item agencies were going to receive from the ARPA funds; therefore, you were able to adjust the general appropriations because of the impact of the ARPA funds. Failure to see the ARPA funds, I don't think the big – I think it was roughly about \$8 million dollars that was distributed around. Failure for that ARPA funds to be visible for the committee to make decisions you wouldn't have moved \$8 million dollars just like that. I think the subsidized funds from ARPA is a reflection of a lot of the actions that the committee made. It's really important colleagues, we all know 22-33 sitting in the Senate and the attempt of the language on page 46 is to strengthen the opportunity to make sure that we have some influence through 22-33 without acting on 22-33. So, if we're going to do that let's make it full-blown and make sure that the entities understand what they should be receiving. If we don't do that, if we don't show them the appendix of what they should be receiving, how would they know whether they're getting the total amount that was really under volume four? And there's nothing in the ARPA funds that broke down anything to specific government agencies or branches or entities to get the specific amount of funds. I understand we've seen on the ARPA funds that we're supposed to receive about \$150,000 for the legislative branch per member, what if those funds do not come? At least with this appendix is a reflection of the action and the position of this body that we will continue to fight for the monies for the various entities, because at the end of the day it's going to be this body that's going to make the appropriations. CHCC, we just put Medical Referral under CHCC. We put \$2 million dollars under them. ARPA's reflecting additional \$15 million dollars, what if they don't get the money from ARPA \$15 million dollars and we're still going to have to subsidize medical referral failure for the administration to identify funds to be submitted here for appropriation purposes for that specific entity is an example is going to be a bigger challenge, but if we have the appendix follow this legislation the very least we can do is fight on behalf of the various government agencies, departments and branches that it's reflective on the submission of the governor that they will be receiving these funds outside of the general fund. It's not saying that we're appropriating ARPA money, but we're making sure that there's something that we can follow down the road maybe six months from now whether each entity is

receiving the amount they should be receiving. Failure to do that we're going to be back to square one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further discussion? Recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On page 33, Section 706 for the second senator district, I really want to refer this to our Legal Counsel on line 11 to see if this one is constitutional or not “the appropriation to the municipal council shall be divided and distributed equally to each member of the municipal council in separate accounts and each municipal council members shall be the expenditure authority of all funds distributed to that person.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Counsel.

Legal Counsel Joseph Tajjeron: I definitely would have to maybe consult with you and Representative Donald from the first senatorial district because this is the language, I believe that we've been using consistently throughout you know the years. I don't believe we've changed it to reflect something different. It's constitutional to answer your question I believe, if there's a specific issue that you think is unconstitutional, I'll be happy to research that maybe during recess, but I don't see any problem with the equal distribution.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: But right now, the Chairman of the Municipal Council of Tinian has the sole expenditure authority. So, if this is not unconstitutional, I would like to offer an amendment that the Chairman of the Municipal Council shall be the sole expenditure authority, instead of the three members.

Legal Counsel Joseph Tajjeron: I can draft up that floor amendment, but i need a little bit of time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Quick recess.

The House recessed at 3:28 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 4:40 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, Representative Patrick San Nicolas had the floor. I now recognize Representative Patrick San Nicolas.

Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, Mr. Speaker I would like to make no motion to offer an amendment for section 706 line 11 and I would like to thank the Legal Counsel for his legal opinion. I yield, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative San Nicolas. Any further discussion? Recognize Chairman Donald Manglona.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I introduce the amendment, I just want to thank the good Rep. Demapan, Vice Speaker, Rep. Sablan for suggesting that we include the combination of the general fund and ARPA allocation, which will now be reflected in a Schedule (b).

Representative Donald M. Manglona offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

House Bill No. 22-74, HD2

I. Amend HB 2-74, HD2 to reflect the following language:

1. On page 25, line 4 to 16. Revise the current text to read as follows:

“(c) All appropriations and allocations of general revenue and local funds made in this Act, were done based upon the legislatively-approved concurrent resolution (HCR 22-1, HD1, SD1) and the Governor’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan as reflected in Schedule B and as set forth in Volume 4 of the Governor’s annual budget submission of April 2021 as amended by the July 2021 submission. Therefore, absent legislative consent in the form of a House Joint Resolution, the Governor shall make no changes to the outside-sourced funds submission or the outside-sourced funds as listed in Chapter VIII, that may directly or indirectly affect the appropriations made herein. Provided however, the expenditure authorities of all branches, municipalities, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, and offices, to which ARPA funds are allocated, may reprogram funds allocated for personnel expenses to non-personnel expenses in accordance with the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act as set forth in Title 1 section 7402. In the event of any discrepancies or conflicts between Schedule A and Schedule B, Schedule A shall govern with respect to general fund/non-federal appropriations.”

2. On page 46, lines 9-19

“(d) **American Rescue Plan Act** (Source: U.S.P.L. 116-260). Absent legislative consent in the form of a House Joint Resolution, the Governor shall make no changes to the allocations of outside-sourced funds in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) spending plan as reflected in Schedule B and as set forth in Volume 4 of the Governor’s annual budget submission of April 2021 and amended in July 2021, that may directly or indirectly affect the appropriations made herein. Provided however, the expenditure authorities of all branches, municipalities, departments, agencies, instrumentalities, and offices, to which ARPA funds are allocated, may reprogram ARPA funds allocated for personnel expenses to non-personnel expenses in accordance with the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act as set forth in Title 1 Section 7402. In the event of any discrepancies or conflicts between Schedule A and Schedule B, Schedule A shall govern with respect to general fund/non-federal appropriations.”

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical

amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: August 3, 2021

Offered by: /s/Rep. Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

Floor Amendment

House Bill No. 22-74

3. On page 37 line 12 to 18. Revise the current text to read as follows:

e) CNMI Medical Referral Program. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation shall administer the CNMI Medical Referral insert or its successor, including both inter-island and off-island referrals consistent with its duties and responsibilities under Title 3 sections 2821 et seq. The expenditure authority for all funds appropriated or allocated to inter-island and off-island medical referral services and administration (inclusive of BU 1979, 1979A and any new business units established for CHCC Medical Referral) shall be the CEO of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's or his and her designee.

Consistent with the intent of the forgoing amendment(s), I hereby also move to allow the Legal Counsel together with the House Clerk to make further non-substantive technical amendments that are strictly necessary to effectuate the intent of this floor amendment prior to transmittal.

Date: August 3, 2021

Offered by: /s/Rep. Donald M. Manglona

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel Joseph Tajeron

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Donald M. Manglona was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: House Bill 22-74 is now House Draft 3. Any discussions? We ready? Okay, Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on motion to pass House Bill 22-74, House Draft 3 on First and Final Reading with the following results:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada | yes |
| Representative Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao | yes |
| Representative Celina R. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta | yes |
| Representative Ivan A. Blanco | absent |
| Representative Joel C. Camacho | yes |
| Representative Vicente C. Camacho | absent (<i>during voting</i>) |
| Representative Angel A. Demapan | yes |
| Representative Joseph A. Flores | yes |
| Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero | yes |
| Representative Richard T. Lizama | yes |

| | |
|--|-----|
| Representative Donald M. Manglona | yes |
| Representative Edwin K. Propst | yes |
| Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan | yes |
| Representative John Paul P. Sablan | yes |
| Representative Patrick H. San Nicolas | yes |
| Representative Leila Haveia F. C. Staffler | yes |
| Representative Denita K. Yangetmai | yes |
| Representative Ralph N. Yumul | yes |
| Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez | yes |

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, all 18 members voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With 18 members voting in favor, House Bill 22-74, House Draft 3, hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As per the agreement the last session, under Rule 2, Section 4 (c) and (d) I'm recalling House Bill 22-3, I'm placing it on the calendar for the next House session. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. Noted. Sorry about that. Any discussion on the Floor Leader's motion? Recognize your point of clarification.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: I believe the Floor Leader is just letting us know that he will exercise his authority for the next session that House Bill 22-3 will be placed on the Bill Calendar.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Quick recess.

The House recessed at 4:50 p.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went to recess the Floor Leader had the floor to place House Bill 22-3 on calendar for action in the next session and it'll be placed on calendar for the next session. Thank you.

The Chair directed the members to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business and recognized Representative Roy C.A. Ada.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Roy Christopher A. Ada: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to wish colleague Babauta a happy birthday, but I would just like to ask because our colleague Blanco has been here next to me and I know that one of his favorite things is taking a photo and just before we leave his last session I would just like to ask if everybody could just gather and we just take a photo with his photo just for his last session that's it.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Alright, Representative Celina.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Just wanted to thank you guys for your birthday wishes. I want to thank the Speaker and the officers of the House for calling this session under the guise of a session to pass for resolutions and bills. It was actually a session to my birthday so thank you everyone for coming to my birthday session. That's it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. Recognize Representative Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And first, I just want to thank the Chair and committee members of Commerce and Tourism and Cannabis for supporting and marking up House Bill 22-70 and finally to all of you colleagues for passing that bill today. And secondly, I speak on behalf of the Office of House Minority to thank you Mr. Speaker, members of this leadership and the hard-working staff of the Legislative Bureau for all the respect and courtesies accorded to our late Minority Leader the Honorable Ivan James Alfonso Blanco during his honorable service as a member of this body, as Vice Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means and as Vice Chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation as a grateful Commonwealth we look forward to honoring leader Blanco's legacy of service together by serving our people with the same respect honor and dignity he embodied. Today's swift collaboration to pass the budget bill is a manifestation that leader Blanco's spirit and guidance remains with us on this day. We will all miss leader Blanco, but the fun memories we all have of him will ensure that he lives on in our hearts and the hearts of the people forever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Demapan. Recognize Representative Donald.

Representative Donald M. Manglona: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you know just to follow through with Rep. Demapan being the Vice Chairman and the former Chairman for Ways and Means he never fails to recognize the at least the one entity that always comes out to show up to the session whenever the budget is being passed and that's through the judiciary for their presence here today and to all the members for all the work that went in into putting this product together. I want to thank you all for all the amendments and the proposals and the recommendations to make this the best version that we can so that the Senate can and we hope that they will consider and so with that members we can now breathe a little just give time for the Senate to absorb the work that we've done and start working with them to push out a budget that we can pass prior to October 1st. So again, thank you, members. I appreciate everyone's efforts thank you especially to the LB staff for working past the normal working hours to help the committee and in putting this final product together. So thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Manglona. Recognize Representative Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: I would like to thank everyone for supporting the passage of the House Resolution 22-10. I think it was brought up by Ivan, he was the first one and then the son passed it on to me and then Leila was pushing me to get it through and I thank everyone for your support. Thank you, Chair.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. Any further under miscellaneous? Recognize Representative Joel Camacho.

Representative Joel C. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know tomorrow, I believe we have our joint session with the Senate. It's a really difficult session today, because I know that it's our beloved brother Ivan's last session with us and I know that he's here today. I love you my brother it was an honor serving with you thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Joel. Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you colleagues for your support on House Bill 22-56, House Substitute 1 to assess a fee on plastic bags and ultimately ban it. I'd also really like to recognize Chairwoman Denita Yangetmai and the Commerce and Tourism Committee for the time that they really allowed for us to improve the bill and so as stewards of our environment I am grateful for your support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Members floor is still open. Recognized Vice Speaker.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just like to thank you, Mr. Speaker for taking the initiative and announcing out to the public that you won't be declaring the vacancy. I understand that this is our last session with Representative Blanco, but you're going to wait until we finalize all the services for him before you announce the vacancy for Precinct 3 in the House of Representatives. I really appreciate that Mr. Speaker, I know it's a difficult time for all of us here especially for guys here from Precinct 3. The last two legislatures or last legislature and this literature has been very difficult. Floor Leader and I walked the streets with these two fine men that served this body and coincidentally sat in the same seat as we closed their time here in this chamber, but together we will continue the work that they've done and complete their vision through the work that we do and we'll keep their families in our minds and in our prayers and continue to be a part of their lives as he as they both late Frank and late Ivan has been a part of our lives. So with that again, Mr. Speaker, thank you for making that announcement and taking that stance it's a very difficult stance as we all know that we will be under-represented in Precinct 3, but until we complete everything we can have closure for ourselves here in this body and we can move on for a better tomorrow. Thank you again, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. Representative Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Sorry, I forgot another one. Thanks for your support on the House Local Bill 22-19 about dog owners to pick up after their dogs. This is in anticipation of the tourists that will be attacking us soon, you know they like to take pictures on the walkway and I don't think they'd like to step into those mountains over there. So, thank you again everyone. And also for the health of our people here. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. Any more members? Good. Alright, next Announcements? Under announcements recognize the birthday girl Representative Celina Babauta.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to make an announcement that the House JGO Committee will be conducting a public hearing on three bills specifically two bills introduced by Representative Roy Ada, House Bill 22-59, 22-60 and 22-65. The first public hearing will be conducted on Tuesday, August 10th at 6 pm over at San Vicente Elementary School. I would like to ask the representatives from Precinct 1 especially to come in and attend and provide us your comments for these bills. That's the only announcement I have. I will yield at this time.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. The Chair would just like to remind everyone about tomorrow's joint session at 10 o'clock here in this chamber. Members for the handsome men out there shirt and tie, please for this joint session as we pay homage and tribute to our late colleague who also enjoys wearing his shirt and tie. I know I was talking to Rep. Roy Ada during the recess and he says we should use the yellow tie if we have, but yeah that's the announcement. Any more members?

Several members voiced "ready."

ADJOURNMENT

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: We now move down to adjournment and I now recognize the Floor Leader for the proper motion.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that, that was really a smooth session today and I appreciate it. I now offer a motion to adjourn subject to the Call of the Chair. So move.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

The House adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

FIRST LEGISLATIVE DAY: 1st Legislative appearance of a local bill is on the day it is introduced.

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 22-15: To prohibit the hunting of Micronesia Starling or *Paluman Sali* on Tinian until the Year 2025 and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 6, 2021.

H. L. B. NO. 22-18: To amend Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting a new Chapter 15 to establish permitting requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*; Representative Joel C. Camacho) on July 6, 2021.

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 22-13 To amend Section 413 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, as amended, to allow for concrete hollow block manufacturing for conditional use within “Village Commercial” zones; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*) on June 16, 2021.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on July 6, 2021:

H. B. NO. 22-72: To amend Title 6, Division 4, Chapter 1, Section 4102(d)(i) of the Commonwealth Code. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan BJ” T. Attao, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 6, 2021; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

H. L. B. NO. 22-15: To prohibit the hunting of Micronesia Starling or *Paluman Sali* on Tinian until the Year 2025 and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 6, 2021.

H. L. B. NO. 22-16: To appropriate \$78,000 from revenues collected from poker fees for the Second Senatorial District; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 6, 2021.

H. L. B. NO. 22-17: To appropriate \$200,092 from the Second Senatorial District Developers Infrastructure Tax Fund under Business Unit 3731; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. PATRICK H. SAN NICOLAS of Tinian, Precinct 6 (*for himself*) on July 6, 2021.

H. L. B. NO. 22-18: To amend Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting a new Chapter 15 to establish permitting requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*; Representative Joel C. Camacho) on July 6, 2021.

H. J. R. NO. 22-7: To honor and commend the United States Coast Guardsmen that have served the CNMI under the leadership of Admiral Karl L. Schultz. Introduced by REP. EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ of Saipan, Precinct 3, (*for himself*; Representatives Roy C.A. Ada; Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 6, 2021, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 22-8: To honor and commend the Honorable Serafina Rosario King-Nabors for her dedicated service and remarkable contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*; (Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao,

Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul) on July 6, 2021, 2021; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None