



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2022

LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL

2nd Day, Third Regular Session

Tuesday, February 22, 2022

The House of Representatives of the Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened its Second Day, Third Regular Session on Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10:12 a.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.

A moment of silence was observed.

ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll and nineteen members were present; Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero arrived at 10:17 a.m.

House Clerk Linda B. Muña: Mr. Speaker, 19 members are present and 1 member is absent.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: With 19 members present that constitutes a quorum. Any information on Representative Leepan?

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Yes, Minority Leader.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: He's on his way here from his office.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you for that. Before we move forward with Public Comments, I would like to recognize the Floor Leader for the suspension of rules.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6.

RULE III. SESSIONS AND MEETINGS.

Section 6. Notice of Sessions.

Not less than 72 hours prior to convening a Regular or Special Session, the Speaker or a majority of the members of the House, shall file a written public notice of the date, time,

and place of a session with the Clerk and post the same at the executive branch administration building and the Legislature’s web site. When possible, notices under this section shall be given to at least one newspaper of general circulation. Notices shall contain an agenda of items to be considered at the session. Final disposition shall not be taken on any other matter at such session. Once filed as part of this notice, and agenda may only be changed by adding items thereto by the recorded vote of the majority of the members of the House.

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

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to suspend Rule III, Section 6 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 Joel C. Camacho	yes
Representative Vicente C. Camacho	yes
Representative Angel A. Demapan	yes
Representative Joseph A. Flores	yes
Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero	absent
Representative Richard T. Lizama	yes
Representative Corina L. Magofna	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,” the motion hereby passes. Clerk, please note the presence of Representative Leepan Guerrero.

The Chair directed the members to item II, Public Comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following individuals made comments:

Mr. Herman T. Guerrero

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

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

The Clerk announced the following journal:

1st Day, Third Regular Session Journal – January 12, 2022

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to adopt the 1st Day, Third Regular Session Journal – January 12, 2022.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the 1st Day, Third Regular Session Journal – January 12, 2022 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 introduced by the author of each bill and referred to its appropriate committee by the Chair.

H. B. NO. 22-92

To amend 4 CMC § 1205 (c) to add 500 Sails, Inc., as a qualified educational institution for purposes of the education tax credit; and for other purposes.

REP. SHEILA J. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 4 (*for herself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS)

H. B. NO. 22-93

To amend 6 CMC §3107 to have permissible uses of consumer fireworks within the CNMI.

REP. RICHARD T. LIZAMA of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for himself*, Representatives Sheila Therese J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Denita Kaipat Yangetmai)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND TOURISM)

H. B. NO. 22-94

To amend certain sections of the Chamorro and Carolinian Language Policy Commission Act; and for other purposes.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joel C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

(REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION)

H. B. NO. 22-95

To amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees' Bonus; and for other purposes.

REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Sheila Therese J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Edwin K. Propst, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Ralph N. Yumul*)

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 so they may place House Bill 22-95 on the Bill Calendar.

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; the motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 22-95 on the Bill Calendar was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

House Local Bills: None

House Legislative Initiatives: None

The Chair directed the members to item V, Introduction of Resolutions and recognized Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS***House Resolutions:***

Representative Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero officially introduced the following resolution and request that the resolution be introduced as a Committee of the Whole:

H. RES. NO. 22-15

To honor and commend the late Manuel Agulto Tenorio for his lengthy service and extraordinary contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, and Patrick H. San Nicolas)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

The Chair placed House Resolution 22-15 on the Resolution Calendar and recognized Representative Joel C. Camacho.

Representative Joel C. Camacho officially introduced the following resolution:

H. RES. NO. 22-16

To recognize and acknowledge Mr. Pedro Joaquin Tudela for his tremendous contribution in protecting, promoting, propagating and preserving our native plant species and natural environment in the Commonwealth and for his passion, devotion and commitment in his workplace.

REP. JOEL C. CAMACHO of Saipan, Precinct 1, (*For himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila T.J. Babauta, Vicente C. Camacho, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, and Ralph N. Yumul)

The Chair placed House Resolution 22-16 on the Resolution Calendar.

Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao: Speak, if there’s no objection by the mover, can we introduce this by the committee as a whole?

Representative Joel C. Camacho: No objection.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Rep. Joel. House Resolution 22-16 is introduced as a whole.

The Chair directed the members to House Joint Resolution and recognized Representative Celina R. Babauta.

House Joint Resolutions:

Representative Celina R. Babauta officially introduced the following House Joint Resolution and made a request to introduce the resolution as Committee of the Whole and to place in the Resolution Calendar for action:

H.J.R. NO. 22-14

To Honor and commend Mr. Nick K. Nishikawa, General Manager of Hyatt Regency Saipan for his utmost commitment, dedication and contribution towards the CNMI’s Tourism Industry since July 2008.

REP. CELINA R. BABAUTA of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for herself*)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Celina Babauta. Your House Joint Resolution will be introduced by the Committee as a Whole and will be placed on today’s calendar on today’s next session. Any more under House Joint Resolutions? Any more

under House Joint Resolutions? None. Okay, we now move down to House Commemorative Resolution and I now recognize the Vice Speaker.

House Commemorative Resolutions:

Representative Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution and made a request to introduce the resolution as Committee of the Whole and to place in the Resolution Calendar for action:

C. RES. NO. 22-7

To honor and commend Anthony Iglecias Macaranas for his relentless service and selfless dedication to law enforcement in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REP. BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Vice Speaker. With no objection, House Commemorative Resolution 22-7 is hereby introduced as a whole and will be placed on today’s resolution calendar for action. I now recognize Representative Edwin Propst.

Representative Edwin K. Propst officially introduced the following House Commemorative Resolution:

C. RES. NO. 22-8

To recognize and acknowledge Japan Consul Kazuhiko Ono from the Consular of Japan in the CNMI for his outstanding contributions in helping to establish a strong relationship between Japan and the CNMI.

REP. EDWIN K. PROPST of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Sheila J. Babauta, Angel A. Demapan, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Christina M.E. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, and Ralph N. Yumul)

Representative Edwin K. Propst: I just wanted to say Speaker and colleagues it was an honor to know Consul Ono who has left and I did greet him and send him all our well wishes from this House and we do appreciate everything he has done for our wonderful relationship with Japan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Propst. May I ask, if there’s no objection from your part if we introduce this as a committee of the whole. Okay, thank you, Representative Propst. House Commemorative Resolution 22-8 will be placed on today’s resolution calendar for action. Thank you, members. Anymore under House Commemorative Resolution. None. Ready? We now move on to Messages from the Governor and I recognize the Clerk.

House Concurrent Resolutions: None

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Clerk announced the following Messages from the Governor:

GOV. COMM. 22-103: (1/19/2022) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. William M. Castro, Chief of Staff, at the Office of the Governor to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-104: (1/24/2022) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Vina Seelam, Assistant Public Defender, at the Office of the Public Defender to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-105: (1/24/2022) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Emily Thomsen, Assistant Public Defender, at the Office of the Public Defender to receive an annual salary of \$70,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-106: (1/25/2022) Certifying and granting approval for Ms. Shalee M. Davis, Business Systems Analyst, at the Office of the Secretary, Department of Finance to receive an annual salary of \$80,000. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-107: (1/25/2022) Submitting a copy of Mr. Oscar Patrick Quitugua's *résumé*, statement of financial interest, police clearance, and drug test receipt. [**Deadline: 2/28/2022**-*Note: Gov-Appt of Mr. Quitugua is jointly referred to the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications and the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations for disposition on 12/20/2021*].

GOV. COMM. 22-108: (1/28/2022) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 22-53, HS1, (*To further enable recruitment, retention, and appropriate classification and compensation of Medicaid personnel; and for other purposes.*). [**Deadline: 3/29/2022**]

GOV. COMM. 22-109: (1/28/2022) Informing the House that he vetoed H. B. No. 22-55, HS1, (*To establish a separate license for online sales of alcoholic beverages.*). [**Deadline: 3/29/2022**]

GOV. COMM. 22-110: (1/28/2022) From Mr. Gilbert J. Birnbrich, Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor, request through the "Open Government Act as amended" to inspect and or copy records in the possession, custody or control of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. [*For info*]

GOV. COMM. 22-111: (1/25/2022) Certifying and granting approval for Mr. Ricardo M. Miranda, Senior Solid Waste Engineer, under the Office of Planning & Development to receive an annual salary of \$106,600. [*For info*]

There was no 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. 22-72: (2/3/2022) Returning H. B. No. 22-26, HD1, entitled, “*To amend 3 CMC §2204(e) to remove the limitation of terms for members to serve on the Health Care Professions Licensing Board; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on February 3, 2022. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 22-73: (2/3/2022) Returning H. B. No. 22-81, HD1, entitled, “*To amend 4 CMC § 1202, to exclude local stimulus payments from taxation.*”, which was passed by the Senate without amendments on February 3, 2022. [*For info-Will go to Governor*]

SEN. COMM. 22-74: (2/3/2022) Returning H. B. No. 22-91, HD1, entitled, “*To amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees’ Bonus; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate with amendments on February 3, 2022, in the form of **H. B. No. 22-91, HD1, SS1**. [**For action on Senate amendments**]

SEN. COMM. 22-75: (2/3/2022) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-65, entitled, “*To repeal and reenact 1 CMC § 7407 to provide for a uniform, reasonable, and fair travel policy within and outside the Commonwealth; repeal 2 CMC § 4433(u); and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the Senate on February 3, 2022. [**For action**]

SEN. COMM. 22-76: (2/3/2022) Transmitting for House action S. B. NO. 22-68, entitled, “*To amend 9 CMC § 2103 to require execution of a Notice of Transfer and Release of Liability by the appropriate parties upon the ownership transfer of a vehicle.*”, which was passed by the Senate on February 3, 2022. [**For action**]

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to accept Senate Communications 22-72 to 22-76 so they may become property of the House.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to accept Senate Communications 22-72 to 22-76 so they may become property of the House was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, members. Senate Communications 22-74 will be – I’d like to recognize the Floor Leader to suspend the pertinent rules to place this Senate Communication on today’s calendar. Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to suspend Rule IX, Section 8 and to place House Bill 22-91, HD1, SS1 on the Bill Calendar.

RULE IX. BILLS, RESOLUTIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 8. Referral of Bills and Resolutions

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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.

There was no discussion; the motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair referred the following Senate Communications accordingly:

- *Senate Communication 22-75 (S.B. 22-65) referred to the Committee on Judiciary Governmental Operations*
- *Senate Communication 22-76 (S.B. 22-68) referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations*

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. 22-62: (1/7/2022) Certified copy of H. J. R. NO. 22-11, HS1, entitled, “A House Joint to oppose any government’s actions related to nuclear testing, storage, and waste disposal in the Pacific, and reaffirm everyone’s fundamental right to a safe and healthy living environment.”. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-63: (1/14/2022)) From Representative John Paul P. Sablan informing the Speaker that he will be on personal leave beginning January 18, 2022—February 21, 2022 and request to be excused from all meetings or sessions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-64: (1/31/2022) From Representative Guerrero informing the Speaker that he will be out of the Commonwealth personal leave beginning February 3, 2022—February 6, 2022 and request to be excused from all meetings or sessions during his absence. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-65: (2/9/2022) From the Floor Leader recalling **H. B. NO. 22-87**, entitled, “To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, to be known as the CNMI Equality Act or *Åktun Achá-Parehu* or *Alléghúl Aweewepagh of 2021*.” from the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. [For info]

HSE. COMM. 22-66: (2/9/2022) From the Speaker referring **H. B. NO. 22-87**, entitled, “To prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, to be known as the CNMI Equality Act or *Åktun Achá-Parehu* or *Alléghúl Aweewepagh of 2021*.” to the House Committee on Health and Welfare [For info]

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

The Clerk announced the following Communications from Department & Agencies:

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-41: (12/28/2021) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) re: *Delayed Submission of Review of Expenditures for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-42: (submitted 1/25/2022) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) submitting *Annual Report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-43: (1/28/2022) From the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) submitting *CUC's FY 2022—First Quarter Expenditure Report.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-44: (rec'd 1/28/2022) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *Tourism Industry Update as of January 28, 2022.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-45: (rec'd 2/8/2022) From the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) submitting *Tourism Industry Update as of February 4, 2022.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-46: (2/14/2022) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) re: *Fiscal Year 2022, First Quarter Financial Report.* [For info]

DEPT./AGCY. COMM. 22-47: (1/21/2022) From the Secretary, Department of Finance (DOF) re: *Fiscal Year 2021, Annual Report.* [For info]

The Chair referred the following Department and Agency Communications to the following committee:

- Department & Agency Communication 22-42 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
- Department & Agency Communication 22-43 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
- Department & Agency Communication 22-46 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
- Department & Agency Communication 22-47 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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. 22-91: (12/31/2021) Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTI) submitting: *2021 Annual Report*. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-92: (11/30/2021) Transmitting for disposition a certified copy of Youth Congress Bill No. 18-05, YCD1, entitled, “*To require all schools in the CNMI to teach mental health awareness and provide mental health services; and for other purposes.*”, which was passed by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-93: (12/1/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 18-03, entitled, “*To amend certain provisions of the 18th CNMI Youth Congress Rules of Procedure.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-94: (1/19/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution No. 18-04, entitled, “*Respectfully requesting the Department of Public Works, Department of Public Lands, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to coordinate, procure and install adequate lighting systems at our village recreational facilities.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-95: (12/1/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-04, entitled, “*Conveying the 18th CNMI Youth Congress’s appreciation to Mr. Jonathan Aguon, Principal of Marianas High School, and honoring his continuing service as an educator and mentor to our island’s high school students.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-96: (12/1/2021) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-05, entitled, “*Congratulating the winners of the 17th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition, held in commemoration of the CNMI Humanities Month.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on November 20, 2021. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-97: (1/19/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-06, entitled, “*Paying proper tribute to the life and service of the late Honorable Glicerio “Eli” Del Mundo Arago, Honorary Philippine Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on January 15, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-98: (1/19/2022) Transmitting a certified copy of Youth Congress Commemorative Resolution No. 18-07, entitled, “*Congratulating the winners of the 17th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition, held in commemoration of the CNMI Humanities Month.*”, which was adopted by the 18th CNMI Youth Congress on January 15, 2022. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-99: (1/21/2022) From the Infrastructure and Recovery Program submitting FY 2021 Annual Report. [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-100: (1/28/2022) From Mr. Crispin M. Ogo, Rota resident, requesting that the legislature submit a joint resolution to the United States Congress proposing that the CNMI be included as a "downwinder" of US Pacific test sites, as defined in S.2798 and H.553 modifying the "Radiation Exposure Compensation Act". [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-101: (2/1/2022) Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Delegate U.S House of Representatives to Governor Torres re: *Governor's testimony on matters pertaining to training and hiring U.S. Workers at the Interagency Group of Insular Areas meeting.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-102: (2/2022) US Government Accountability Office (GAO) study re: *CNMI Recent Workforce Trends and Way Distribution.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-103: (2/10/2022) From the 16th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council re: *Council Commemorative Resolution 16SNIMC-03.* [For info]

MISC. COMM. 22-104: (2/18/2022) From the Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations (MANGO) re: *ARPA Funding for Nonprofits.* [For info]

The Chair referred the following Miscellaneous Communications to the following committees:

- Miscellaneous 22-91 referred to the Committee on Education
- Miscellaneous 22-92 referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare
- Miscellaneous 22-102 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
- Miscellaneous 22-104 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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 six 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. 22-34: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-66 entitled: "To amend 1 CMC §2901 to require newly appointed persons to undergo certification training in regards to the Open Government Act (OGA); and for other purposes." *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House file H. B. No. 22-66.*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. Although this bill is recommended to be filed, I still feel it is an important role of our board members, for any board

that they are on that they familiarize themselves with the Open Government Act and so I encourage all boards to adopt within their own policies that they undergo Open Government Act training so that they are aware of their fiduciary and their responsibilities as a board because a lot of the decisions that they make across the government affect people on a daily basis and if they don't follow the Open Government Act it can put all of the decisions that they make into question. Thank you, Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Staffler. Any further before I call for the vote? Ready, okay.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-34 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. 22-35: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-65 entitled: “To amend 3 CMC §2822(f) to rename the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan as the Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-65 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-35 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. 22-36: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-35 entitled: “To add a provision to prohibit convicted felons from possessing firearms and/or ammunition; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-35 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Celina R. Babauta.

Representative Celina R. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleagues, I would like to state for the record if we can – once we adopt this today that it be placed on calendar, but not acted on today? If there are no objection.

Several members voiced “no objection.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Noted, Representative Celina Babauta. Any other discussion? Ready.

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-36 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

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

S. C. R. NO. 22-37: Reporting on H. B. No. 22-17 entitled: “To amend 9 CMC §2401 to authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to regulate chauffeur licenses in the CNMI; and for other purposes.” *Your House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommends that the House pass H. B. No. 22-17 in its current form.*

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt Standing Committee Report 22-37 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, members. I’d like to call for a quick recess.

The House recessed at 10:44 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 10:57 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: When we went to recess, we just adopted Standing Committee Report 22-37 and with our discussions during recess; we will leave Standing Committee Report 22-38 and 22-39 on the agenda. To clarify some technical issues. Thank you, members.

No action taken for the following standing committee reports:

S. C. R. NO. 22-38: Reporting on the renomination of Mr. Ramon S. Basa to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Saipan. *Your House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House confirms Mr. Ramon S. Basa’s renomination.*

S. C. R. NO. 22-39: Reporting on the nomination of Mr. Oscar P. Quitugua to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission representing Rota. *Your House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications recommends that the House confirms Mr. Oscar P. Quitugua’s nomination.*

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. 22-15

To honor and commend the late Manuel Agulto Tenorio for his lengthy service and extraordinary contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Resolution 22-15 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 resolution:

C. RES. NO. 22-7

To honor and commend Anthony Iglecias Macaranas for his relentless service and selfless dedication to law enforcement in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 22-7 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 resolution:

C. RES. NO. 22-8

To recognize and acknowledge Japan Consul Kazuhiko Ono from the Consular of Japan in the CNMI for his outstanding contributions in helping to establish a strong relationship between Japan and the CNMI.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt House Commemorative Resolution 22-8 was carried by voice vote. There was no “nay” vote.

The Chair directed the members to item XVI, Bill Calendar and recognized the Floor Leader.

BILL CALENDAR

The Floor Leader made a motion 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:

H. B. No. 22-7

A Bill for an Act to provide clarity relative to the crime of promoting prison contraband, or otherwise known as the Contraband Reform Act of 2021; and for other purposes. *[No public comments were received in an open and public meeting when the legislation appeared on the House Agenda of 2/19/2021; 3/16/2021; 12/20/2021; and 1/12/2022]*

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan offered the following floor amendment:

Floor Amendment

H. B. 22-7, HD1

I hereby move to amend current text in HB 22-7, to reflect the following amendments as HB 22-7, HD1:

1. Page 3, line 2, to amend as follows:

“or safety concerns, provided that reasonable notice is given that the item or article that was previously authorized for possession is now prohibited; or

2. Page 3, line 3, to amend as follows:

“(F) Any authorized property that has been altered for an unlawful or unauthorized purpose.”

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: February 22, 2022

Offered by: /s/ Christina Marie E. Sablan

Reviewed for legal sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel John B. Layde

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: And these are amendments that were developed following committee meetings, the JGO committee meetings with both a representative from the Public Defender's Office, as well as the Chief Prosecutor himself. We had the Department of Corrections present during this meeting as well and there were no objections to the amendments and there was a pretty healthy discussion about the bill generally and why it's important, but the Public Defender's Office had some concerns, which we attempt to address with these amendments. And that's it. I so move.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Representative Tina Sablan has offered a floor amendment as you all may have – I think you guys have the copy of the floor amendment and it has been seconded. Any discussions on the floor amendment offered by Representative Tina Sablan? Ready.

Several members voiced "ready."

There was no discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: The floor amendment has been adopted. We now move back to the main motion for the passage of House Bill 22-7, now HD1. Any further discussion? Okay, Clerk please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-7, House Draft 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 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 Corina L. Magofna	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 20 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-7, HD1 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. No. 22-65

To amend 3 CMC §2822(f) to rename the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan as the Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center.

The motion was seconded.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader. A motion has been made to pass House Bill 22-65 and it has been seconded. Any discussions on the floor? Recognize leader Demapan.

Representative Angel A. Demapan: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And at this point, I’d like to ask some guidance from our Legal Counsel as some descendants of the late Dr. Torres have brought up a concern that in their Title 1, Section 421, the language states that the hospital on Saipan shall be known as Dr. Torres Memorial Hospital. Obviously, the hospital on Saipan that this referred to was the hospital that is now the site of the Northern Marianas College. Since becoming the Northern Marianas College, we transitioned to the Commonwealth Health Center and for whatever reason, it may be the name of Dr. Torres Memorial Hospital, which only was referenced to the hospital on Saipan was not transferred to the Commonwealth Health Center. And so, I’d like to ask guidance from the Legal Counsel on whether this provision that’s codified still stands and whether it is in conflict of renaming, a hospital that should have been named.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Counsel? Okay, quick recess.

The House recessed at 11:09 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:28 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Before we went on recess, we were on House Bill 22-65. After further discussions during recess, the bill may require more clarification. So we would like to table it for action on a later date. So, I recognize the Floor Leader.

The Floor Leader made a motion to withdraw the motion to pass House Bill 22-65.

H. B. No. 22-65

To amend 3 CMC §2822(f) to rename the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan as the Dr. Carlos S. Camacho Commonwealth Health Center.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion and the motion to withdraw the passage of House Bill 22-65 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. 22-17

To amend 9 CMC §2401 to authorize the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to regulate chauffeur licenses in the CNMI; 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 the motion for the passage of House Bill 22-17 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 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 Corina L. Magofna	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 20 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” House Bill 22-17 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

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

S. B. No. 22-18, SD1, HD1

A Bill for an Act to waive the Northern Marianas College tuition for a veteran with 30 percent or greater service-connected disability; and for other purposes. [See S. C. R. No. 22-28]

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. And thank you, Floor Leader. And thank you colleagues for your patients while this has been on our calendar for a while. I wanted to offer the amendments that we discussed at the session when this was first put on calendar. It was discovered that the draft bill that or not draft, but the bill that I was using in the committee report actually lacked some of the language that was originally included from the Senate side and to clarify, it was specific to ensuring that a veteran would make sure that the benefits they received were exhausted from both federal and local sources before this law would come into play. So, to be clear, you have the copy. It is to amend section two to read as follows:

FLOOR AMENDMENT
By Representative Leila H.F.C. Staffler

Re: S.B. 22-18, SD1, HD1

AMENDMENT:

To amend Section 2 to read as follows:

Section 2. Enactment. Subject to the codification by the Law Revision Commission, the following is hereby enacted:

“Section 101. Definitions.

- a. ‘Eligible veteran’ means a CNMI resident who was an active member of the United States military, who served in active federal service, under either Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code, ~~in a war or conflict fought on foreign soil or in international waters or in another location in support of those serving on foreign soil or in international waters, and if discharged from service, has received an honorable discharge and is certified to have at least 30 percent disability as a result of serving in active military service, and if discharged from service, has received an honorable discharge.~~ and
- b. ‘CNMI resident’ means a person residing in the CNMI ~~who that~~ is classified as a resident for tuition-paying purposes based on the definitions of a resident student established by NMC Policy No. 4001 Residency Classification.

Section 102. Tuition Waiver for Veterans.

- (a) Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, the governing board of the Northern Marianas College shall waive the tuition for an eligible veteran as defined in Section 101. The costs other than tuition – such as for books, student activity and laboratory fees, and other applicable fees – are not waived.
- (b) NMC shall assist each applicant apply and submit to the institution, in the form and manner prescribed by NMC, an application for the waiver and necessary evidence that the applicant qualifies for the waiver not later than the last class date of the semester or term to which the waiver applies.
- (c) The waiver from tuition does not apply to a veteran who at the time of registration is entitled to receive, but did not apply for, educational benefits under both federal and local legislation that may be used only for the payment of tuition if the value of those benefits received in a semester is equal to or exceeds the value of the waiver for the same semester. If the

value of both federal and local benefits that may be used only for the payment of tuition and are received in a semester does not equal or exceed the value of the waiver for the same semester, ~~the person is entitled to receive both those federal benefits and the waiver in the same semester~~ the person is entitled to receive the waiver balance for the same semester only after all federal and local tuition benefits have been applied.

- (d) This waiver shall not apply to any courses from which the veteran has withdrawn after the withdrawal period or any courses from which the veteran has failed to receive a passing grade. Provided that this waiver may apply to courses where the veteran, with the permission of the relevant Dean of his or her program, withdrew due to reasonable factors beyond his or her control.

Section 103. Enrollment.

A veteran who receives a waiver under subsection 102 may pursue an associate, ~~or~~ bachelor's, or master's degree.

Section 104. Regulations.

The Board of Regents shall promulgate any necessary regulations to carry out the intent of this Act.”

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: February 22, 2022

Offered by: /s/ Rep. Leila H.F.C Staffler

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

/s/ Legal Counsel John B. Layde

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: The rest of it was part of the original draft amendment. And so, I hope that this edition that includes both federal and local sources of scholarship will be satisfactory to the body. I so move to make that amendment.

The motion was seconded.

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

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: May I just clarify with the mover of the amendment. So your amendment on the floor is inclusive of both the amendments to Section 101 and Section 102. Is that correct?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Representative Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Yes. Thank you. The original one – so the part that was missing originally was both federal local and discharged from service and has received honorable discharge was all already included from the original meeting that we had. So, we just wanted to make sure that we Meeting that we had. So, we just had to make sure that we added both federal and local to the rest of the language so that the scholarship received would first be exhausted from both the federal and local side that was what was missing.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Sorry, just to be clear. So, the definition that is provided in Section 101 is being amended. Right? And then the tuition waiver language in

Section 102 is being amended. And then the language and enrollment in Section 103 is also being amended. That's what you're submitting on the floor right now.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Yes.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Everything that's here?

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Yes, sorry for the confusion.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Okay. Thank you for clarifying. I am ready to vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right. Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Any further discussions ready?

Several members voiced "ready."

There was no further discussion and the motion to adopt the floor amendment offered by Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler was carried by voice vote. There was no "nay" vote.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: And we now move back to the main motion for the passage of Senate Bill 22-18, SD1, HD1 now HD2. Any further discussion?

Several members voiced "ready."

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion for the passage of Senate Bill 22-18, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 2 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 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 Corina L. Magofna	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 20 members present voted "yes."

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” Senate Bill 22-18, SD1, HD2 hereby passes the House. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you. Last on our list, I now offer a motion to reject House Bill 22-91 –

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Representative John Paul Sablan.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: I believe our last vote was on the amendment. I think we go back to the bill to vote it out.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: No, we did. We did adopt the floor amendment by voice vote and then we went to a roll call.

Representative John Paul P. Sablan: Okay. So clarified, sorry. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative John Paul Sablan. Floor Leader.

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

H. B. NO. 22-91, HD1, SS1

To amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees’ Bonus; and for other purposes.

The motion was seconded.

The Chair called for a short recess.

The House recessed at 11:39 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Back to session. Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And just for clarification, the motion is to reject and to go to conference committee for House Bill 22-91, HD1, SS1. So move.

The motion was seconded.

Under discussion; the Chair recognized Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. This Senate version of the retiree bonus bill includes changes that we can only accept or reject. The main changes are increasing the bonus from \$500 to \$1000 and granting the governor 100%

reprogramming authority. The Governor is still within his twenty-five percent reprogramming authority and does not need 100%. That was stated by the Secretary of Finance during one of our Ways and Means meetings. He was impeached in this House for reckless and irresponsible government spending among other things. And now we want to give him 100% reprogramming authority? I don't believe that's appropriate and I don't support that. We are awaiting his impeachment trial in the Senate. And so, granting him 100% reprogramming authority is not something I support. For that reason, if we can only accept or reject, I am voting to reject this Senate version, go into conference committee with the Senate and work on identifying the funds for the \$1,000, without giving the Governor 100% reprogramming authority. Additionally, members there is House Joint Resolution 22-12, which we did pass and is now sitting in the Senate that will grant a stimulus for everyone. My personal opinion is that our entire community needs help and we all would like some type of bonus or stimulus, but right now this is what we have in front of us and I vote not to accept the Senate amendments because of the 100% reprogramming authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. I recognize Representative Yangetmai.

Representative Denita K. Yangetmai: Thank you, Speaker. *I mweschal bwe ibwe ira eghus rel HB 22-95, bwe sibwe metaf ghatch. Iyo ese afeschi Bonus? Yamam mwo schórr House nge ai tipeli Bonus, Bonus Yel BUT aise tipeli mille Ebwe ngalei-ló Samwol ngare Governor 100% reprogramming power. Fal milel nge Governor Ebwe taitai salapi merel inamwo iya na agency e tipeli bwe Ebwe bweibwogh me iye, bwe ebwe isaliló igha e tipeli iye. Ngare Ai ngaleey 100% reprogramming power, Yamam Power of the Purse, Yamam schórr Representative, esóbw bwal yor ló yamam power. Ilal schagh.* Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Yangetmai. Any further discussions? Representative Propst recognized.

Representative Edwin K. Propst: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. You know, every single year he has been Governor, Governor Ralph Torres has spent well beyond the CNMI's means. Every fiscal year under Governor Torres' reign has ended in deficit spending even in a year of a super robust economy, the greatest economy in the history of the Commonwealth as Governor Torres and his beneficiaries, so probably proclaimed, but here are the actual deficits and by year under Governor Torres. 2016 \$16,279,801 deficit, 2017, \$8,044,194 deficit, 2018 in the greatest economy of the world that has ever seen by mankind \$25,910,717 deficit, in 2019 \$88,777,254 deficit, in 2020 \$133 million deficit in, 2021 \$42,600,000 deficit. The total deficit under Governor Torres is six years in charge of running the CNMI government total is \$314,611,966. That's a lot of money. And yet as expected, Governor Torres continues to blame everything and everyone, except of course himself, because it is never, never, ever his fault, even when it clearly is. He's the only Governor who illegally flew first-class on taxpayer dime every single time he traveled as Governor. He's the only Governor who ran a huge commercial piggery of over 300 pigs on his personal property and have taxpayers pay for it. He's the only Governor who ran utility bills in one month as high as \$18,000 charging into taxpayers. No blink of an eye. No big deal. He's the only Governor to have his home and cars and office rated by the FBI and the US Attorney. Governor Torres continues to enrich his beneficiaries in turn donate to his re-election campaign via sole source contracts. For example, one of many, but for brevity, I won't use too many, but Governor Torres' sister-in-law's brother, Jesse Ogo made \$257,000 in 17 days

of sanitizing, the Department of Corrections spraying for only about an hour and a half on the average each day, he made an additional \$5,000 a day for sanitizing the Multi-Purpose building and an additional \$2,700 a day for sanitizing, the MCAT tent. Altogether, he cleared well over \$500,000 in two months of sanitizing. Blue Continent doing business as KKMP was paid more than \$700,000 to lead and rebroadcast his zoom press conferences. Despite the fact that Governor Torres has six highly talented and highly qualified people in his press corps. I don't know of any other Governor that has had six people in this press corps, other than Governor Torres. And in a response to KUAM's Thomas Manglona during a press conference on the sole source to KKMP for leading zoom conferences, Governor Torres stated, "well, I actually have reached out to some other radio stations and they said they were unable to do this, what we're doing on a weekly basis." Really. So, he's saying that no other radio stations were capable of doing what KKMP was doing? I'd like to see that because I have spoken to radio stations about that. So, we'll wait and hear from Governor Torres into exactly which radio stations turned him down. What radio station would say, "I don't want six or \$700,000. We're not going to do it." Seriously. The overwhelming majority of sole source contracts awarded to Governor Torres' beneficiaries, all pay to play. They reciprocate, they give back to Governor Torres for their sole source contracts. A recent, most recent sole source contract that we've found out about is issued to AP solutions. In the amount of \$870,000 all paid upfront. When we have a lot of people waiting in line to get paid, this company was awarded \$870,000 all paid upfront. Now, what is this about? This is a payment for a digital log book that has failed at other places and essentially would require everyone to give the personal health information and allow this company to track their whereabouts. Now, in order for it to be successful, everyone has to download the app and actively use it and then the thing about this is log books are no longer required here. In a health Q&A that we just recently had with the Governor's Task Force, no one, and they were sitting right here, no one in the Task Force when asked, was aware or knew anything about this digital log book contract at all. So, why would Governor Torres make this decision to go with this contract without consulting with the task force, most especially CHCC, CEO Esther Muna. Why wouldn't he go to them and ask them is this a good thing to invest in? And now, despite all of this, the Senate wants the House to give Ralph Torres 100% reprogramming authority in order to give our retirees their thousand-dollar bonus. Well, we wholeheartedly support giving a retiree a thousand-dollar bonus, but we do not and cannot give Governor Torres 100% reprogramming authority, especially after we just impeached him for his corrupt deeds and abuse of power and fraud. Governor Torres continues to misuse and abuse, precious taxpayer dollars. We cannot embolden or reward him by giving him 100% reprogramming authority. Furthermore, the fact of the matter is Secretary of Finance, David Atalig has already told us that the 25% reprogramming authority Governor Torres currently enjoys is sufficient enough to give the retirees their \$1,000 bonus. So why on earth? Why, why must we give the governor Torres 100% reprogramming authority? If it isn't needed to address the retaliatory. Furthermore, why would the Senate put this in when they knew it would be controversial? When they knew that we got to get this bonus done, but we're going to put this in any, we're going to insert this language, even though we know the majority of the House will not go forward with it or support it. You know it's very painful, what's really painful about all of this is, yes as Mr. Guerrero had pointed out, we have a lot of family members who need that bonus. I have uncles and aunties and relatives that need that most, especially my parents. My mother is bedridden. She has dementia, my parents, their expenses, medical expenses, and everything, their retirement is being spent so quickly. Any savings they have is being dwindled. They are two retirees that definitely need the bonus. I promise you that. Anyone that knows my parents that has come to our house and has seen what my parents are going through or knows how much this is needed, but at what cost. So, I had a sit

down with my father about that and I told him, “Dad,” this is very emotional, this is very personal because “I know how much you guys could use this money,” but I told him what it meant and my dad said, “Son, just do the right thing.” Today, I stand before you Speaker and colleagues to say that there's no way I could leave this and tell my dad later that I went ahead and supported giving the Governor 100% reprogramming authority when first of all, he did not need it and second of all, he did not deserve. I reject this wholeheartedly, but I support the retirees 1000% for what their \$1,000 bonus, but certainly we cannot just give it like this. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Propst. Any further discussions on the floor? Recognize Representative Tina Sablan.

Representative Christina Marie E. Sablan: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, members of the public and especially our government retirees. The retiree bonus is not the problem. It is not the subject of debate. There is bipartisan support across this legislature. We, in the House unanimously supported the bonus when it was originally proposed at \$500 and we support it now at a thousand. We know that so many retirees live on the fixed incomes that their pensions provide and that these incomes do not adjust with the rising cost of living and in this pandemic, after back-to-back typhoons, and then this pandemic, we know retirees need this help. The retiree bonus is not the problem. The problem is the writer that keeps getting attached to the bonus. The problem is the Governor wants a hundred percent reprogramming authority over the budget. And he is once again, using and manipulating retirees to serve his own political ends. Imagine that, this Governor wants unlimited power over the public purse after running deficits for six straight years. After we just impeached him for misspending public funds and abusing public trust. Six articles of impeachment colleagues for corruption, commissions of felony and neglect of duty. After we reviewed and expose thousands upon thousands of pages of government records documenting illegal first-class travel, theft, extravagant reimbursements, 85 boating trips using public safety resources, utilities at two private residences plus water for the commercial piggery. After we have just learned about more lucrative sole source contracts that this administration has awarded four weekly zoom conferences, an app that no one seems to know about and a ridiculous amount for a single company to sanitize public buildings. After we have just learned about the outrageous fees that taxpayers are paying for the Governor's army of attorneys to fight the JGO investigation and the impeachment. The sad hard truth, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, is that this Governor cannot be trusted with public funds, but he will try to take more control anyway and he has no qualms about using retirees to do it. After all he's done it before, but retirees are not political pawns. They should never be used as political pawns. Colleagues, where is the logic in giving this Governor more power over public funds? Where is the justice in that? There is none. It would defy common sense and conscience to do so. The fact of the matter is that had the Senate simply passed the bill that we sent them weeks ago, the retiree bonus would be on the Governor's desk by now. The facts also show that this House has identified the funds and properly appropriated for the retiree bonus, not just once, but twice with the bill that Chairman Manglona has introduced today. My message to the Governor, cut the politricks. Stop using the retirees. Stop using the Senate. Live within your means. Respect the reprogramming authority that the law already gives you. Let's give the retirees the bonus they've been waiting for and let's do this the right way. No writers, no games, no 100% reprogramming power, no more politricks. And while we are helping retirees, let's also help everyone else who needs help expand the premium pay to the public sector and private sector workers who have been excluded so far. Issue the new local stimulus to the thousands of qualified taxpayers and dependents who really need this help. The Governor doesn't have to wait for the legislature to act on the new local

stimulus and premium pay bonus expansions. Right now. He can do it right now. He is the expenditure authority for ARPA funds and these are allowable uses. What is he waiting for? Thank you, colleagues. I yield.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Tina Sablan. Floor is still open for discussions. Recognize Representative Corina Magofna.

Representative Corina L. Magofna: Speaker, I just wanted to share this with our retirees. So to our retirees, I, along with many of my colleagues are in support of the \$1,000 bonus, a hundred percent. We need you to know that. Please know that we understand your frustrations and financial hardships as this has already taken about a couple of months. We thank you for your patience and we humbly ask for your continued support and understanding, and we ask that you allow us to do our part responsibly for the betterment of our government. *Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Magofna. Any further discussion? Recognize Representative Richard Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't going to say anything but, I think it's time for me to say something as a retiree. I will say it in vernacular. *Hamyo guenao hunyong na ritadot, i man retiree siha fan pasensia ha. Disidi tutuhon i gobietno ha ofresi hamyo – sangani ham para manu ni pao ma sotda i salape. I want to thank the Chairman for Ways and Means na ha aspihayi ya ha so'da i salape lao antes di ma chogue eyo. I senadot gi san hilo esta ma pasa i \$500 taya guidelines manu para bin sotda. Pues ma daggao pa'pa guini gi san pa'pa eyu na iyo ña bill. Ma sotda i \$500 humanao ta'lo hulu gi senadot, ma haksa ta'lo gi \$1,000 lao pao ma sedi i Gobietno para ma na'i 100%. Un tungu ha na kada ma na'i 100% man deficit hit. Hafa mas ha ga'ga'gao? Esta nahong ha ni biente-sinko percent ni siña ha cho'gue ha na kalamten hafa na salape ni ha go'gote gi kanai ña. Pues hamyo guenao huyong ni man retirees espisiátmente guahu lokkue retiree yo' fan pasensia ha ya ta na fatto este gi otimo siempre todos hamyo man maresi ni \$1,000. In para bai fan cho'gue pa'go bai fan reject este yo ma agree i Senate ya basta man gando, para ma haksa ta'lo gi \$2,000. Maila yan fan ma na'i naya ni \$1,000 pues yanggen man malagu hamyo ta'lo bonus guaha sumangan guini na by September there's a possibility ta'lo guaha bonus. Pues pot fabót, sesu yo ma hagang nai'an i bonus esta manhanyan mohon annai in preposa i bill para i \$500. Lao man ga'ga'gao ta'lo man ofre'fresi ta'lo para hulu \$1,000 pues man pasensia ha sa siempre tatman ma pasa eyo ya todú hamyo man maresi. Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Mr. Speaker yan todus hamyo ni man gaige gi san hiyong man ékungok dánkolo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ni pasensian miyo. Thank you.*

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

Several members voiced “ready.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: We're ready. Okay. Again, just to clarify, the motion is to reject and move for a conference committee. A “yes” vote is a vote on the side of rejecting and taking that route. A “no” vote of course is the other way. Are we clear? Okay. Clerk, please call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll on the motion to reject House Bill 22-91, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 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 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 Corina L. Magofna	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 20 members present voted “yes.”

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Clerk. With all 20 members voting “yes,” the motion b the Floor Leader to reject and move to conference committee hereby passes. Before I move forward, I’d like to name the conferees on the House side, I have selected Chairman Donald Manglona, Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan “BJ” Attao and Representative and Vice Chair of the Ways and Means Committee Representative Corina Magofna. Thank you, members. All right. Thank you, members. That’ll do it for our calendar, our bill calendar for today. And before we move forward, there is an open suspension of rules earlier that was made by the Floor Leader for introduction of resolutions and bills and communications, not meeting the 72-hours. So if there's no objection, if we can move back to introduction of bills for the Floor Leader.

Several members voiced “no objection.”

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: All right. Thank you, members. And then we'll move back to the introduction of bills and then we'll continue on with the agenda afterwards. Thank you. I now recognize the Floor Leader.

Representative Ralph N. Yumul officially introduced the following legislation:

H. B. NO. 22-96

To limit the duration of an emergency contract to a specific period that does not extend beyond the emergency; and for other purposes.

REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (for himself, Representatives Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, and Edmund S. Villagomez)

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Floor Leader Yumul. We will refer that bill at a later time. Thank you. Any further before we move back to item XVII of the agenda? No further, alright we now move back to item XVII, Miscellaneous Business. The floor is open. Recognize Representative Ben Camacho.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Representative Vicente C. Camacho: Thank you, Speaker. Colleagues, I just wanted to inform you that there is a divert airfield groundbreaking ceremony taking place in Tinian today. As the Chairman of FFA, I was not informed and neither was the House of Representatives. I would also add that it's imperative and I urge the Director of the Military Affairs to inform the Chairman of the Federal Foreign Affairs Committee and the House of Representative of all events taking place or any activities taking place within the CNMI. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Camacho. Floor's still open for discussions. Recognize Representative Sheila Babauta.

Representative Sheila Therese J. Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I wanted to make a statement about the notice issued by NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries request for written comments. The due date is on the 22nd Eastern Standard Time, but that is tomorrow and yesterday the Governor made a statement in the Saipan Tribune stating that the sanctuary means 57.5% of the CNMI waters will be closed. There's a lot of fake news going around about the sanctuary it's different than the monument and in that article, he further stated that and I quote, "and if I'm not mistaken, that means our own people, our indigenous people have to get a permit to get to our own waters." Well, that is false. He is mistaken. That was not in the original proposal, which he supported in 2016. So in 2016, this nomination was given to NOAA. It was supported by Governor Torres and Kilili, and it was accepted in 2017. It is now on the inventory and it expires in March. There's no designation going to happen. Right now, the public comment period is just on whether or not we want to keep it in the inventory. The designation process is a completely different process and it takes several years because by law, NOAA is required to have extreme public engagement and that's required by law. So, I just want to state for the record that there are many false statements going around about the sanctuary and about the monument. They are two completely different things right now. The public comment period is only asking for whether or not we want to keep it on the inventory. And that is something I support as NR Chair, because that is conservation management. And that is something that we support for our future generations. So, these misleading and harmful statements really intrude on the process of public education and awareness around sanctuaries and what that's about and what kind of resources would be granted to the CNMI to further support education and research and science, so that we can really learn more about our surrounding waters. The public comment period does close tomorrow. I am submitting a letter on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee Stakeholders Group. We do have Congressman Kilili's support as well as the 500 Sails, the 2021 nonprofit of the year, who is reviving our maritime traditions. If anyone has any questions or receives any questions, please feel free to forward them to me. I will be happy to answer those questions and clarify any misleading comments, but right now at this time, the public comment period is only about keeping it on the inventory. The original nomination does not even specify how big the sanctuary is going to be. So, I don't know where this 57.5% of closing our waters came from. And I don't know where this permit issue came from, but that is something for the community to decide if we get accepted to be designated as a sanctuary. So, this is really the

beginning and so again, please forward any concerns or questions to me, I will be happy to address them. And again, investing in our future through conservation management is something I support as NR Chair. And I just wanted to say that for the record. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Sheila Babauta. Floor is still open. Recognize Representative Leila Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Chairman. I wanted to just let everybody know that the collection relief for Tonga will be at Fishing Base this Saturday from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. So, if you are any entities that you know, would like to donate to the collection relief for Tonga it will be again this Saturday from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM. They are also looking to ask for assistance in paying for the container that will take all of these items to Tonga. And so, if you're interested in supporting that, you can also reach out to me and I will connect you. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Leila Staffler. Any further under miscellaneous? Recognize Representative Richard Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: I wanted to find out that Fishing Base they have the *Sabalo* Market. Is that going to be a problem?

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Rep. Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Thank you, Speaker. I am not the coordinator of the event, I don't know the answer to that, but I believe that they have worked out that stuff, but thank you. And the request for support is in your personal capacity too. I just wanted to clarify. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Recognize Rep. Lizama.

Representative Richard T. Lizama: With the groundbreaking in Tinian, I just hope that the Governor and her Military Affairs Office inform our Chairman of this House for any future activity and it will not be left – it's just totally unacceptable to have a body here, a Chairman and not being informed and as a veteran, I'm speaking up for all veterans. Thank you.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Thank you, Representative Lizama. Recognize again, Representative Staffler.

Representative Leila Haveia F.C. Staffler: Okay. Thank you, Speaker. I almost forgot. Today is the Zoning Committee public hearing to get comments on the following two bills House Local Bill 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. And House Local Bill 22-22, Senate Draft 1 to amend table one under Section 404 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 as amended to allow for auto rental including services for rental vehicles for conditional use, village residential zoning districts, and for other purposes. It will be held at the Mariana's High School cafeteria starting at 5:00 PM. The public is welcome. Thank you, Speaker. I apologize.

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: No, you're good. Thank you, Representative Staffler. Floor is still open. We're ready. All right. We no move down to item number 18 announcements. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Speaker Edmund Joseph S. Villagomez: Alright. Before we move forward to adjournment, I just want to state again for the record, the House Bill introduced by Representative Yumul is hereby numbered House Bill 22-96 and will be referred to the Committee on JGO. Thank you, members. We now move down to adjournment and I recognize the Floor Leader.

ADJOURNMENT

Floor Leader Ralph N. Yumul: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 12:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Venetia S. Rosario
House Journal Clerk

Attachment:

- Representative Denita K. Yangetmai – Discussion under Bill Calendar

APPEARANCE OF LOCAL BILLS

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

SECOND LEGISLATIVE DAY: NONE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE DAY:

H. L. B. NO. 22-28: To amend Saipan Local Law 22-6, Section 101(a) to restructure the local license fee imposed on all electronic gaming devices as defined in Title 6 section 3154(a) (4), located within the Third Senatorial District. Introduced by REP. RALPH N. YUMUL of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*) on December 20, 2021.

Appearance of Measures introduced on the House Floor during the House Session on January 12, 2022:

H. B. NO. 22-91: To amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08) to establish a business unit and properly fund the Retirees' Bonus; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. DONALD M. MANGLONA of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for himself*, Representatives Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on January 12, 2022; subsequently moved and placed on the Bill Calendar.

H. L. B. NO. 22-29: To re-appropriate Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Twenty cents (\$9,784.20) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-23; One Thousand One Hundred Forty-Nine Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$1,149.20) allotted under Saipan Local Law 19-19; and Twelve Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$12.55) allotted under Saipan Local Law 20-09; and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. LEILA H.F.C. STAFFLER of Saipan, Precinct 5 (*for herself*, and Representative Richard T. Lizama) on January 12, 2022.

H. J. R. NO. 22-12: To strongly encourage and endorse the issuance of a new local economic impact payment to provide direct and expedited financial relief to qualified households of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the expansion of eligibility for premium pay "bonuses" for essential workers in the government and private sector. Introduced by REP. CHRISTINA M.E. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for herself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on January 12, 2022; subsequently referred to the Resolution calendar.

H. J. R. NO. 22-13: To authorize the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) to receive and administer \$15 million dollars as a subrecipient of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund from the American Rescue Plan Act and for other purposes. Introduced by REP. JOSEPH LEEPAN T. GUERRERO of Saipan, Precinct 1 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, John Paul P. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on January 12, 2022; subsequently referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

[ADDED-1/12/2022] C. RES. NO. 22-6: To honor and commend the late Dennis M. Reyes for his astounding dedication and extensive service to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and to extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family on his untimely passing. Introduced by REP. JOHN PAUL P. SABLAN of Saipan, Precinct 2 (*for himself*, Representatives Roy C.A. Ada, Blas Jonathan "BJ" T. Attao, Celina R. Babauta, Sheila J. Babauta, Joel C. Camacho, Vicente C. Camacho, Angel A. Demapan, Joseph A. Flores, Joseph Leepan T. Guerrero, Richard T. Lizama, Corina L. Magofna, Donald M. Manglona, Edwin K. Propst, Christina M.E. Sablan, Patrick H. San Nicolas, Leila H.F.C. Staffler, Edmund S. Villagomez, Denita Kaipat Yangetmai, and Ralph N. Yumul) on January 12, 2022; subsequently placed on the Resolution Calendar.

House information on deadlines for override: None