

Adopted February 15, 2000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

FIRST DAY

February 14, 2000

The House of Representatives of the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature convened in its First Day, First Regular Session, 2000, on Monday, February 14, 2000, at 10:06 a.m. in the House Chamber, Capitol Hill, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial, Speaker of the House, presided.

A moment of silence was observed.

In accordance with Rule XIII, § 2(a) all eighteen member were present.

Speaker Fitial: A quorum is dully constituted for today's session.

ADOPTION OF JOURNALS

Organizational Day (01/10/00)

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the First Organizational Journal.

The motion was seconded.

There was no discussion raised. The motion to adopt the Organizational Day Journal was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: The Organizational Day journal is hereby adopted.

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

H. B. NO. 12-1: A Bill for an Act to make appropriations for the operations and activities of the CNMI Government and its instrumentalities; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Antonio M. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-2: A Bill for an Act to prohibit the sale of spray paint and permanent markers to minors, and require retail sellers of such products to post warning signs in regard to this prohibition; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-3: A Bill for an Act to require landowners to grant a right of way or provide for any other reasonable access to a public road for any real property which has been subdivided and is offered for sale, or lease; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 12-4: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 11-2, by amending 1 CMC Section 8392 (d); and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-5: A Bill for an Act to increase General Excise Tax on fresh produce imports into the CNMI, strengthen plant quarantine; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-6: A Bill for an Act to create the Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission by amending 4 CMC, Div. 8, to add a new Chapter 2, Section 8211, et. Seq., the “Commonwealth Telecommunications Act of 2000; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho
Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

H. B. NO. 12-7: A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC, Sections 1322 and 1323; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and nine others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-8: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 11-75 to further restrict the sell and increase penalties on the provisions of use and purchase of tobacco products by minors; and to raise the purchase age from 18 years of age to 21; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Maria “Malua” T. Peter and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-9: A Bill for an Act to authorize the Department of Finance to establish a surcharge fee on local exchange telephone service and mobile radiotelephone service to fund a CNMI wide “911” Emergency System; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. David M. Apatang and one other
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-10: A Bill for an Act to amend Article XV, Section 1(e) of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Offered by: Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan
Referred to: Committee on Education

H. B. NO. 12-11: A Bill for an Act to stimulate the economy of the Northern Mariana Islands through the creation of free trade zones, the creation of tax incentives, and the establishments of a public corporation to administer free trade zones; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Diego T. Benavente
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-12: A Bill for an Act to allow the Department of Public Lands to quiet title to certain properties in the Chalan Kanoa area of Saipan; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Diego T. Benavente
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 12-13: A Bill for an Act to provide for the issuance of certificates as certified public accountants to regulate the practice of accountancy in the public interest; to establish a Board of Accountancy and prescribe its powers and duties; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-14: A Bill for an Act to provide law enforcement powers to investigators of the Office of the Public Auditor by adding a new section 7841 to 1 CMC, Division 7, Chapter 4; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-15: A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC, Division 10, Section 10203 by adding a new subsection (35) to authorize the issuance of a construction performance bond for government projects to construction companies wholly owned or controlled by U.S. citizens and to accept leasehold interest or other security equal to the total project cost in lieu of cash premium payment; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Oscar M. Babauta
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-16: A Bill for an Act to prohibit non-traditional fishing methods in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. B. NO. 12-17: A Bill for an Act to provide a tax credit to employers who hire and employ handicapped or disabled individuals; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-18: A Bill for an Act to establish the funding for Youth and Man Amko program and activities; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. B. NO. 12-19: A Bill for an Act to require larger business establishments to recruit and train local employees; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-20: A Bill for an Act to amend 6 CMC § 2204(b)(8) by limiting the number of firearms that may be listed on a single identification card; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-21: A Bill for an Act to authorize the appropriation of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for the Chalan Kiya sewer collection system; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-22: A Bill for an Act to authorize the appropriation of \$300,000.00 for the construction of covered sidewalks in full compliance with federal accessibility standards for Garapan and Oleai Elementary School; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and six others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-23: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) from the CNMI Covenant Section 702 CIP Projects; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and six others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-24: A Bill for an Act to appropriate One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for Marianas High School Apprenticeship Program; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and six others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-25: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for Scholarship Program; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and six others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-26: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$600,000.00) from the CNMI Covenant Section 702 CIP Projects; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and five others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-27: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for Land Compensation; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-28: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for Tanapag PCB/Agent Orange; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and seven others

Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-29: A Bill for an Act to appropriate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) in Fiscal Year 2000 for Retroactive Salary Adjustment Payment; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and seven others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-30: A Bill for an Act to amend Public Law 3-71, § 1 (§1117) as amended by Public Law 3-72, §2 (§1102) and Public Law 6-44, §2 to exempt from Forfeiture, property used in the commission of a criminal act by someone other than the owner without the knowledge, consent or Willful blindness of the owner.

Offered by: Rep. Florencio T. Deleon Guerrero
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-31: A Bill for an Act to increase the purchasing power of local consumers in the lower to middle income brackets in order to increase their propensity to save and invest in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and five others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-32: A Bill for an Act to establish a policy and guideline for a Business-Government Partnership Initiative.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and five others
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-33: A Bill for an Act to establish the CNMI Municipal Savings Bond; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and five others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-34: A Bill for an Act to amend Article 2 of Chapter 2 of Division 8 of Title 1 (1 CMC § 8226 *et. seq.*) regulating housing; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and five others
Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-35: A Bill for an Act to make technical amendments in section 2 (c-h) and section 4 of PL 11-34; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and six others

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

H. B. NO. 12-36: A Bill for an Act to establish an allocation formula for appropriation of funds to the public schools in the CNMI; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and six others
Referred to: Committee on Education

OH. B. NO. 12-37: A Bill for an Act to support a Village-Based Education for the CNMI Public School System; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and four others
Referred to: Committee on Education

H. B. NO. 12-38: A Bill for an Act to establish the William S. Reyes Educator Academy in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and four others
Referred to: Committee on Education

H. B. NO. 12-39: A Bill for an Act to reform the labor and business laws of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Benigno R. Fitial and eight others
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. B. NO. 12-40: A Bill for an Act to improve the retirement benefits and the conditions for retirement for Class I members of the CNMI Retirement Fund by amending certain provisions of the retirement law; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and five others
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. B. NO. 12-41: A Bill for an Act to amend 4 CMC section 1405, by establishing a new section (c) which will establish a program of recycling for beverage containers; and for other purposes."

Offered by: Rep. Egredino "Dino" M. Jones
Referred to: Committee on Ways and Means

H. L. B. No. 12-1: To appropriate \$123,000 from the local license fees for pachinko slot machines and poker machines in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.

H. L. B. No. 12-2: To appropriate \$274,000 on the fees collected from Saipan Local Law 11-2 (Poker Machines); and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and five others

H. L. B. No. 12-3: To appropriate the \$171,700 on the fees collected from the Bingo, Cockfight and Batu; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and five others

H. L. B. No. 12-4: To appropriate \$420,485 from the Mañagaha Island Land Fee; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and five others

The House recessed at 10:20 a.m.

RECESS

The House reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

PREFILED AND INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS

H. R. NO. 12-2: A House Resolution to bestow upon Ms. Michelle Boyer Sablan a distinguished legislative recognition on the occasion of her enthronement and reign as Ms. CNMI International, 1999-2000; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and seventeen others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. R. NO. 12-3: A House Resolution to commemorate, recognize and congratulate Miss Cherlyn Brel Cabrera on the occasion of her selection by the Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association as the 1999 Miss NMI Universe; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and seventeen others
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. R. NO. 12-4: A House Resolution for the Division of Public Lands to designate public land Lot No. 33-10 in Gualo Rai for Youth Center and Public Park for Precinct III; and for other purposes.

Offered by: Rep. William S. Torres and seventeen others
Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

H. R. NO. 12-5: A House Resolution urgently requesting the Director and Chairman of the Board of Public Lands and the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to deed approximately 6,000 square meters of public land located on Saipan at China Town, Lot. No. 26-13 and Chalan Laolao area, Lot No. 35-1 to Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to construct a water tank reservoir.

Offered by: Rep. Jesus T. Attao and eleven others
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. R. NO. 12-6: A House Resolution to request the Secretary of the Department of Commerce to conduct a feasibility study on the production of salt using the solar evaporation of seawater method.

Offered by: Rep. Martin B. Ada and six others
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

H. R. NO. 12-7: A House Resolution supporting and promoting the efforts and mission of the “First Pacific Islands new Millennium Peace Conference.

Offered by: Rep. Egredino “Dino” M. Jones
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. J. R. NO. 12-1: A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to create a task force with the responsibility to assess the circumstances surrounding the polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) issue in the village of Tanapag.

Offered by: Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan
Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

H. J. R. NO. 12-2: A House Joint Resolution respectfully requesting the United States Department of Transportation to grant a Foreign Aircraft Permit under Part 237.42, to Armenian Airlines to operate charter flights between Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Clark Field in Pampanga, Republic of the Philippines.

Offered by: Rep. Benigno R. Fitial
Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Rep. Attao: Privilege, Mr. Speaker. May I hear the committee assignments with respect to local bills?

Speaker Fitial: We have local bills, and according to the procedure we need to calendar them for, I believe, three separate sessions. We can still assign them to their respective committees and I'd rather look at them first before I do that, if you don't mind.

Rep. Attao: Okay.

MESSAGES FROM THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Comm. 12-1 – January 11, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he signed House Bill No. 11-484, SD1 (Reappropriate funds from PL 11-78) into **Public Law 11-111**.

Gov. Comm. 12-16 – February 4, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved House Bill No. 11-464, SD1 (Youth and Man Amko Program Act of 1999).

Gov. Comm. 12-17 – February 7, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved House Bill No. 11-221, SD1 (Require CRM to conduct a study to determine the environmental impact of motorized watercraft on the coastal and marine environment).

Gov. Comm. 12-18 – February 7, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved House Bill No. 11-493, HD1 (Excise Tax Abatement Act of 1999).

Gov. Comm. 12-19 – February 7, 2000 – Informing the Legislature that he signed House Bill No. 11-513 (CIP Tax Relief Act of 1999) into **Public Law 11-121**.

Gov. Comm. 12-20 – February 10, 1999 – Informing the Legislature that he signed House Bill No. 11-501, HS1 (Commonwealth Recycling Act of 1999) into **Public Law 11-122**.

Gov. Comm. 12-21 – February 10, 1999 – Informing the Legislature that he signed Senate Bill No. 11-125, SD1 (To allow denial of a certificate of origin for any garment factory found in violation of the Nonresident Workers Act or Commonwealth Minimum Wage) into **Public Law 11-123**.

Gov. Comm. 12-22 – February 10, 1999 – Informing the Legislature that he disapproved House Bill No. 11-389, HCS1, SD1 (NMI Free Trade Zone Act of 1999).

Speaker Fitiaf: These are all information from the Governor's Office. Any comments or deliberation on these messages? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: I am just wondering why Governor's communications on exemptions are not part of today's agenda?

Speaker Fitiaf: I have asked the Clerk to reproduce copies of all those communications from the Governor regarding exemptions and distribute them to all the members for their information. I believe those communications do not warrant the deliberation of the House. Representative Benavente?

Rep. Benavente: The law presently requires the Governor to certify to the Legislature each time he allows the exemptions or authorizes the exemptions on the Public Law. I believe at this time that it does require that it become an official communication of the House and therefore needs to appear in the session Agenda. I think that by just having it passed out to the individual members, it does not comply with the intent of the law, and I ask the Speaker to allow those exemptions to appear on the Agenda so that it becomes official communications between the Administration and the Legislature or in this case, the House of Representatives.

Speaker Fitiaf: I will make sure that these communications appear in the next session. But let me ask, Representative Benavente, is this for information for the Legislature only

or for the Legislature to deliberate on the exemptions and what is the Legislature do? Can the Legislature do anything to change the action taken by the Governor in issuing those waivers to respective businesses?

Rep. Benavente: Mr. Speaker, the intent of the law is to allow the Legislature to review those exemptions. And yes, it may not do so directly at that moment but it may than when the Legislature questions the authority of the Governor in granting of the exemptions, it may then propose to amend the law. That is what was intended -- that the Legislature be allowed and at the same time to review the exemptions being made by the Governor. That is why that is important, because at any time that we, here at the Legislature, disagree with the exemptions that the Governor made, we may immediately introduce a legislation that would further amend the existing law to make sure that the intent of the legislation is followed. That is why it is critical at this point. Several members of the Legislature in the past have expressed their concern on the exemptions. I think that needs to continue and that this Legislature makes sure that the intent of that legislation is to be followed. Thank you.

Speaker Fitial: I will ask the Clerk to include those in Messages from the Governor in tomorrow's session.

Rep. Benavente: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Rep. Jones: Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Representative Jones?

Rep. Jones: I agree with Representative Benavente's in put. However, I agree with you also that this information is to namely inform us the action taken by the Governor. However, to change the exemption made by the Governor, I believe it is not within the authority of this Legislature and therefore, for us to dwell into the exemption by the Governor may not have that authority to do so. However, perhaps the appropriate committee may take it up on itself to look into any concerns raise by any member of this House or unless any member would like to raise any concern that a committee should undertake to insure that the referenced is concern should be taken upon the committee. But I am raising this input because I understand that you would like to ensure that we minimize as much as time possible not to deliberate anything other than bills and resolutions that are urgently affecting the CNMI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker Fitial: Let me explain the reason why I ask the Clerk not to include those Messages from the Governor with respect to waivers. Because the concern of Representative Benavente can also be satisfied by just distributing all these messages to the individual members of the House and if any member, since all members have copies of these messages may wish to address any concern they may have on each or every messages from the Governor regarding waivers, they could do so. You don't necessarily have to list them in the Order of Business since all the members already have copies. So, your concern is also satisfied by the fact that all members received copies of all these Messages from the Governor.

Rep. Benavente: If I may make one more point, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitiaf: Go ahead.

Rep. Benavente: Again, the law that requires that the Governor certify to the Legislature and therefore, I believe that there should be some kind of official communication being sent by the Governor and being received by this Legislature. At the same time, in the past, as we have done is, we have assigned those communications to the committee for the committee's further deliberation. I don't believe that we will then give us by just passing out the certification to the members would automatically have the committee review. I don't see why there is any problem with providing those. As a matter of fact, I think it is important to comply with the existing law that this becomes an official communication of the Governor and the House of Representatives.

Speaker Fitiaf: So, we will include the messages on waivers from the Governor on next session. Any further deliberation on the Messages from the Governor? If none, let us proceed on to Item 6 under Senate Communications.

SENATE COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair recognized the Floor Leader.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I now move for the acceptance of Senate Communication 12-1, relative to Senate Bill No. 12-13; Senate Communication 12-2, relative to Senate Bill No. 12-19; and Senate Communication 12-3, relative to Senate Bill No. 12-20.

The motion was seconded.

Sen. Comm. 12-1: Transmittal of Senate Bill No. 12-13, "A Bill for An Act to amend those provisions of P.L. 10-44 pertaining to the requirement that a non-immigrant alien investor seeking a long term business certificate may, subject to the approval of the Department of Commerce, post alternative forms of security other than a cash deposit; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate on February 3, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Commerce and Tourism

Sen. Comm. 12-2: Transmittal of Senate Bill No. 12-19, "A Bill for An Act to state as public policy that construction of an 80 megawatt power plant facility by phases, beginning with immediate installation of 60 megawatts of generating capacity, is in the best interest of the Commonwealth; to find and declare that phased construction of 80 megawatts of generating capacity is consistent with the Request for Proposals (RFP) under which proposers recently competed for a contract for a new power plant on Saipan; to provide a time period during which proposers may stand by their existing proposals for purposes of project award; to expressly authorized project award and negotiation of a contract based on existing proposals; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Senate on February 3, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

Sen. Comm. 12-3: Transmittal of Senate Bill No. 12-20, “A Bill for An Act to amend Public Law 11-84; and for other purposes,” which was passed by the Senate on February 3, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations

There was no discussion raised. The motion to accept Senate Communications 12-1, 12-2 and 12-3 was carried by voice vote.

Speaker Fitial: Let us move down to Item 10 under Communications from the Departments and Agencies.

HOUSE COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

None

COMMUNICATION FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENTS & AGENCIES

Dept./Agcy. Comm. 12-1: From Mr. Antonio I. Deleon Guerrero, DEQ Acting Director, informing the Speaker about the 2000 Environmental Awareness Week Island Clean-up Day.

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

Dept./Agcy. Comm. 12-2: From Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho, Governor’s Developmental Disability Council, regarding activities planned for the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March.

Referred to Committee on Health and Welfare

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

Misc. Comm. 12-1 – Certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution YC 2-04 (Requesting the Governor’s Office and the Legislature to establish a CNMI Sports Council).

Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

Misc. Comm. 12-2 – Certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution YC 2-05 (Requesting the Legislature to appropriate more funds to PSS for the improvement of technological equipment).

Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

Misc. Comm. 12-3 – Certified copy of Youth Congress Resolution YC 2-03 (Supporting the need to fund the Street Naming Project).

Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

Misc. Comm. 12-4 – Copy of T.L.D.R. No. 12-1 (Declaring President Kiasaku Ikeda an Honorary Citizen of the Second Senatorial District) which was adopted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation on February 4, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Health and Welfare

Misc. Comm. 12-5 – Copy of T.L.D.R. No. 12-2 (Requesting CUC to establish a bulk commercial user rate within the CNMI), which was adopted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation on February 4, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

Misc. Comm. 12-6 – Copy of T.L.D.R. No. 12-3 (Supporting and concurring with CUC's proposal to advertise for an invitation to open public bid the old Tinian power plant generators and other inventories), which was adopted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation on February 4, 2000.

Referred to: Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

None

REPORTS OF SPECIAL AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

None

RESOLUTION CALENDAR

None

BILL CALENDAR

None

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

None

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair recognized Rep. Antonio Camacho.

Chairman A. Camacho: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Committees on Ways and Means, Federal and Foreign Relations, and Judiciary and Governmental Operations will have a oversight hearing with Washington Representative at 1:30 this afternoon.

Speaker Fitial: Any further announcement? Representative Attao?

Rep. Attao: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Chairman on Federal and Foreign Relations to enlighten us on the status of the take-over bill?

Speaker Fitial: There is a request regarding –

Chairman A. Camacho: Mr. Speaker, that is why we are having this hearing this afternoon with the Washington Representative to know more about the take-over since he should be here enlighten the Legislature on those issues.

Rep. Attao: So, may I ask, Mr. Speaker, that after that hearing the chairman of the respective committee to enlighten the members on the status?

Speaker Fitial: I expect the three respective committees to report their findings on this afternoon's hearing, after the hearing at the appropriate time, sooner than later. Representative Rosiky Camacho?

Chairman R. Camacho: Are we under Announcement, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker Fitial: Yes.

Chairman R. Camacho: I would like to announce that the PUTC Committee will be meeting at 8:30 tomorrow morning at the Leadership Conference room next to Representative Ichihara's Office to discuss all those bills referred to PUTC Committee.

Speaker Fitial: I would like to inform everybody that we have public hearing calendar right outside in the lobby. So, I ask all these meetings, hearings, to be posted on the calendar for everybody's information and especially the public. Further announcement? Representative Apatang?

Rep. Apatang: Just a clarification on the 1:30 hearing, is this an oversight hearing or just a hearing for the Washington Representative?

Speaker Fitial: I believe the Committee will be the Ways and Means, since they will be asking questions primarily his budgetary requirement for this fiscal year.

Rep. Apatang: So, it is appropriation hearing not an oversight, is that correct?

Speaker Fitial: It is both. If there is no further announcement, Floor Leader Babauta, recognized.

Floor Leader Babauta: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I now move to recess until tomorrow morning at ten o'clock.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

The House recessed at 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Joan P. Kaipat, Journal Clerk
House of Representatives